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A-LEAGUE CLUBS CLAMOUR FOR BECKS THIS GUN FOR HIRE!

By Magnus Lewington

The A-League as a national football competition has undergone monumental change since replacing the National Soccer League (NSL) in 2004. The potential signing of former Manchester United, Real Madrid and AC Milan winger David Beckham further underlines the evolution of football within Australia's sporting geography.

In the past week the Australian media has experienced a frenzy as Beckham announced to the American press that he would not re-sign with LA Galaxy following a 6 year stint at the Californian franchise.

The arrivals of Alessandro Del Piero, Emile Heskey and Shinji Ono have instilled an excitement in Australian football fanatics, with seemingly no name in world football too large to link with a move to a competition still fundamentally in its infancy. While Del Piero without doubt represents a player equally (or arguably more) decorated than Beckham, the England winger seems to command both a quality of play and a power of image that resonates within the beautiful game's popular imagination.

His resumé includes being a core member of Manchester United's treble winning squad of 1999, a central figure in Real Madrid's 'Galacticos' super-team that included Zinedine Zidane, Luis Figo and Brazil's Ronaldo; while remaining the all-time outfield appearance record holder for the English national team with 115 games (A mere 10 short of goalkeeping record holder Peter Shilton).

The big question now remains; will he come down under to sign off from this illustrious career?

The A-League's official website states that four clubs are currently tracking Beckham with varying offers for the midfielder's services. Central Coast Mariners, Melbourne Heart, Western Sydney Wanderers and Perth Glory are all reportedly following the movements of Beckham, with each announcing different deals and offers of remuneration to tempt the master-craftsman to their relative clubs.

Both Heart and the Glory have put the most cash on the table, with the

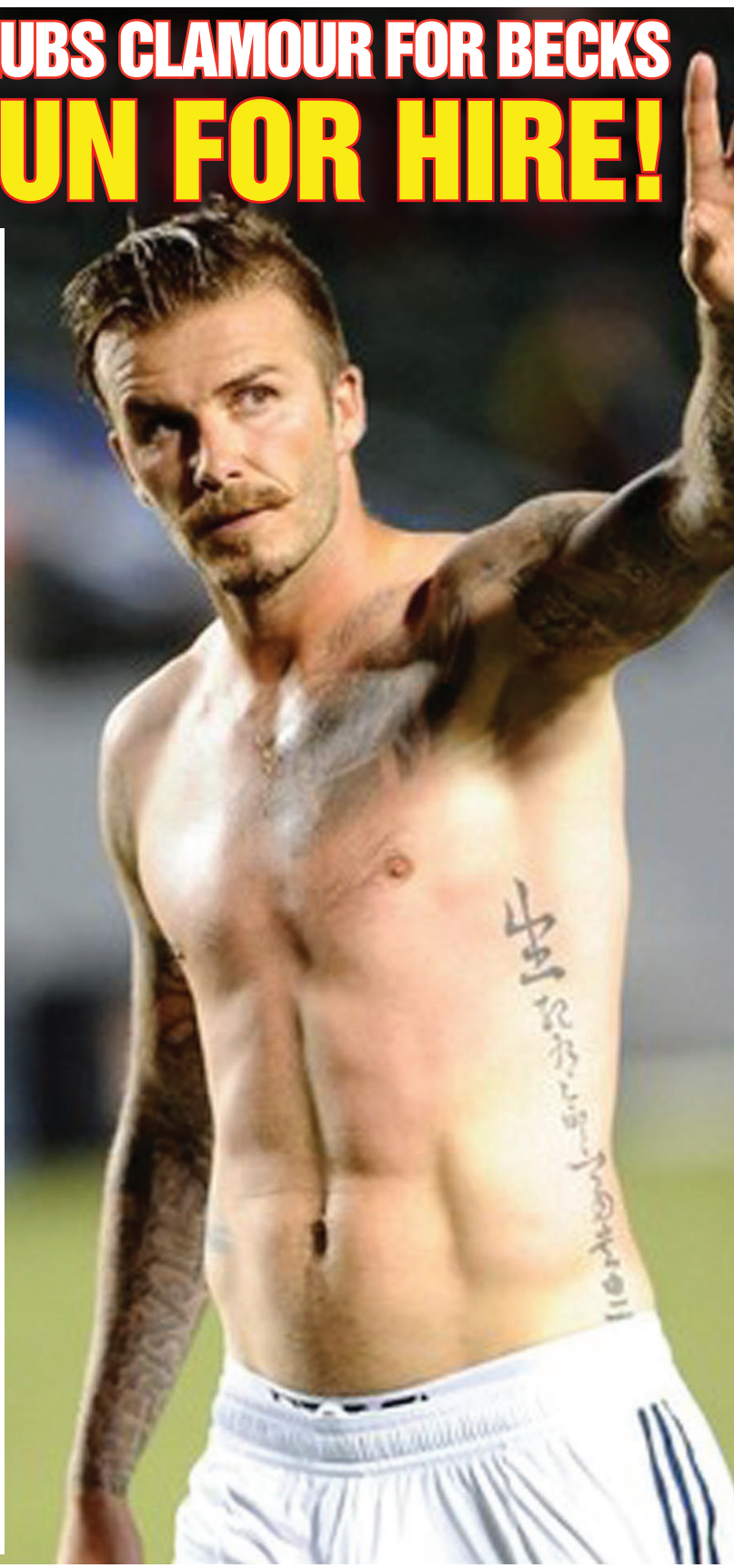


PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

West-Australian outfit the best odds at the bookies. Having publicly declared an open race for Beckham's signing after his final game against Houston Dynamo on December 1, Perth has stated it aims to gain Beckham for a 10 game stint with the potential for extension.

Central Coast has also reportedly offered a beach house as a part of the deal, courtesy of millionaire John Singleton becoming involved in the chase. Offers and their reception have thus far been unclear, and with competition from global clubs varying from West Ham United to a financially powerful Paris St Germain, the result is far from assured.

However, considering the successes of pre-season signings in the league, and improvements both in attendance and quality, the potential for another huge addition to the competition is by no means implausible.

While the Beckham name is undeniably attractive to Australian clubs for gaining a wider viewership, there remains the essential issue of his quality. The accuracy of his long passing, his aerial delivery, and his calm and assured presence on the ball would be a breath of life to any team within the A-League's charter. As has been seen with both Heskey and Del Piero, attracting players of world-class ability offers the opportunity for Australian's to enjoy football at its best on their own shores. That, most of all, underlines the importance for the A-League in continuing to seek out not only Beckham, but class players within the international arena in order to spur the competition to new heights.

This Week's Line Up

**MARINERS
SOUVENIR POSTER**
Page 14

**HAL ROUND 7
REWIND**
Page 5

**BFTP:
JIM PATIKAS**
Page 20

**V-LEAGUE:
ROUND 2&3**
Page 21



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Bending Over Backwards For David Beckham

By Andrew Bishara

YES

When the bells went off that David Beckham was set to leave the LA Galaxy and finish his career elsewhere, every football fan in Australia perked up their ears. Would bringing the Beckham brand to the A-League help? The answer is: “yes”.

Obviously points first – Beckham’s arrival will spark a wide interest in the game. If fans, critics and first timers paid to see the likes of Emile Heskey and Alessandro Del Piero, audiences will no doubt pay to see football’s biggest household name in Beckham. One must look at the effect that Del Piero had on the league and consider the “Becks” effect. Imagine if fans could see Beckham versus Del Piero; or Beckham versus former international teammate Emile Heskey?

In turn, the team who will be nurturing Beckham will receive as increase in domestic and international awareness; as well as the lure of sponsors. The three A-Leagues teams who are in the hunt, despite their on-field successes, hold a lesser image – due to their low attendances and the geographical location.

The Central Coast Mariners have often struggled to gain the attention of sponsors, given their provincial image in the market. They have often struggled to bring in big name of “marquee players” to Gosford Park. Imagine the “Becks” effect if he were to join them? Or imagine if Becks decided to head out west to the

Perth Glory? Less than two weeks ago, The Glory was hunting Harry Kewell in search of an “off-field spark”; surely Becks is bigger than Kewell?

Melbourne Heart would also benefit from his tenure. In a whimper it could swell its attendances and gain more local media attention, where it often plays second fiddle to Melbourne Victory.

Heart chief executive, Scott Munn quoted in The Age that the Victorian club was planning to offer Beckham \$1 million for a 10 game stint. His belief was that the payout was nothing compared to what could be returned.

“We are making a seven-figure cash offer for the 10 matches and we have a whole range of sponsors and commercial partners to back us,” said Munn. “We believe he could deliver a massive boost in revenues, sponsorships and earnings for the club, as well as build support and lift our image”

The keys words there: “revenues”, “sponsorships” and “image”. There is no doubting the interest Beckham would bring to the league. Yet, there is also “what else” he can bring to the league.

Other notable players will no doubt witness Beckham ditching the likes of LA to come play in Gosford or Melbourne. Beckham isn’t just a draw card for audiences and sponsors – but for players too. If someone of the calibre of Beckham were to play in Australia surely the league couldn’t be that bad could it? Wouldn’t players love to play against the likes of Del Piero, Heskey and now Beckham? Football’s image is growing everyday in the eyes of fans and sponsors. Now picture how big the A-League could be, if Beckham were playing.

The A-League is abuzz with the prospect of David Beckham calling Australia home once his commitments with LA Galaxy conclude after the MLS Play-Off Final. GW takes a look at the pro’s and con’s of such a deal coming through. Is the A-League in danger of becoming an international footballer’s retirement village, or would all the hype be worth the while. We state the cases. Now it’s your turn to decide.



Even the blind men were calling out his name: Melbourne Victory’s Archie Thompson snares a happy snap with Becks, when LA Galaxy toured Australia last year. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

By Matt Mays

NO

If someone told me ten years ago while Beckham was pondering a move from Manchester United to Real Madrid that the English super-star would be possibly moving to the A-League in 2012, I probably would have told them were to go (in other words).

Surely it would be great having another superstar in the game coming down under? Yes, there would be benefits, but I’m looking at the other side of the picture.

Bringing Beckham to the A-League will be an expensive move. Just think of the wages he has been on in his career. Would it really be more beneficial spending gazillion dollars on a marquee player? As opposed to investing the money into other things, like youth development; stadium facilities; the promotion of the still developing A-League? Although Sydney FC has dealt with it well bringing Del Piero in, this is a whole different kettle of fish. The A-League will not be signing just the player; they will be spending dosh on agents, sponsors, and his image rights too.

As I mentioned before, the A-League is still developing, and you could argue that the last couple of years have been bright. The game in Australia is rapidly growing, which is a great thing! But Australia is doing this by itself, even before the likes of Del

Piero and Heskey (cough cough) came to join the party. Does the A-League want to be the new MLS – attracting the players that just can’t do a job anymore (barring Thierry Henry [drools])? Bringing in the players that are past their sell by date? From a personal point of you, I guess I have been spoilt (as an Englishman growing up watching the EPL all my life) but from what I can see Australia are trying their best to do things their way.

Before we all get carried away and start rushing to the airport to welcome him (if and when he arrives) we should all remember this would only be a short term move. David Beckham is settled in LA, his children are settled in school, and his spice-girl wife has her fashion label there. Also, the MLS season will be starting again in the New Year. If such a marquee signing were only coming for a couple of months, wouldn’t that be kind of embarrassing? It would be like a chef coming to cook for you, serving you a cold soup then leaving again! The A-League needs some long-term stability.

I admit bringing Beckham to the A-League will put bums on seats. This has been proven so far with Del Piero, Heskey (chuckle) and even Ono. But I just don’t see this one fitting. I feel this would be too big and expensive to handle at this moment in time. I love Beckham, his free kick against Greece in 2002 still gives me goose bumps, but I just don’t see this one being a good idea.

Sorry Australia.

Oz Football Awards winners revealed

The fourth annual Australian Football Awards were held at a gala event at the Sofitel Hotel in Sydney where former Italian international and current Sydney FC marquee player Alessandro Del Piero was the guest of honour.

The Australian Football Awards brings together all levels of the sport from the grass roots football community through to the ranks of the Qantas Socceroos and Westfield Matildas, providing a unique opportunity to recognise and reward outstanding achievements.

“It’s a wonderful night for the game to celebrate the diversity of Australian football and pay tribute to everyone from the volunteers through to the superstars,” said Football Federation Australia CEO, David Gallop.

“The AFAs are an important occasion to show that the national governing body wants to nurture that connection to the grassroots. My goal is for everyone who plays, to feel like they belong in football.

“I congratulate all the winners for their contribution to a stellar year for the game in 2012,” concluded Gallop.

In the professional category, Qantas Socceroo Brett Holman together with Westfield Matilda, Sally Shipard were named the 2012 Male and Female Footballer’s of the Year



Brett Holman

respectively.

In the Female U20 Footballer of the Year for 2012 went to Westfield Matilda Stephanie Catley and Central Coast Mariners goalkeeper Mathew Ryan took out U20 Male category for the second year in a row.

In the non-professional category teams, volunteers, coaches and referees from around the nation were also recognised

The Senior Team of the Year went to the Senior Men’s team from Eureka Football Club from Footbal Far North Coast of Northern NSW whilst the Junior Team of the Year Award went to the U16 Women’s Team of the Avalon Soccer Club

from the Manly Warringah Football Association of NSW.

The male coach of the year award went to Darren Cook of Tasmania and the female coach of the year went to Queenslander Fiona Stevenson.

The referee of the year went to Brenton Hayward from Victoria and the volunteer of the year award was presented to John Wainwright from the Tinonee Football Club from the Mid North Coast of Northern NSW.

In addition a new award category of Pararoos Footballer of the Year was presented with Chris Pyne of NSW being named the inaugural recipient.

2012 Australian Football Award Winners

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS
Footballer of the Year (male): Brett Holman, Aston Villa FC
Footballer of the Year (female): Sally Shipard, Canberra United
U20 Footballer of the Year (male): Mathew Ryan, Central Coast Mariners
U20 Footballer of the Year (female): Stephanie Catley, Melbourne Victory

NON-PROFESSIONAL AWARDS
Team of the Year (Senior): Senior Men’s Team - Eureka Football Club (NNSW)
Team of the Year (Junior): U16 Women’s Team - Avalon Soccer Club (NSW)
Volunteer of the Year: John Wainwright (NNSW)
Referee of the Year: Brenton Hayward (VIC)
Coach of the Year (male): Darren Cook (TAS)
Coach of the Year (female): Fiona Stevenson (QLD)
Pararoos Footballer of the Year: Chris Pyne (NSW)

Socceroos to host Jordan at Docklands

Football Federation Australia (FFA) and the Victorian Government have announced that the Qantas Socceroos will host Jordan in a 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifier match at Docklands in Melbourne on Tuesday 11 June 2013.

This will be the second time that the Qantas Socceroos will face Jordan having met for the first time in a 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifier in September which Jordan won 2-1 in Amman.

FFA CEO David Gallop made the announcement at the venue and believes that local fans will support the Qantas Socceroos in numbers.

“The Victorian sporting public have always provided huge support for the Qantas Socceroos and I’m looking forward to a great atmosphere at this world-class venue,” said Gallop.

“With tickets going on sale so early, it’s also a great opportunity for interstate football fans to plan ahead and get to Melbourne to support our team as well.

“Everyone knows our FIFA World Cup qualifying group is extremely competitive and this important home game is absolutely crucial on the road to Brazil,” concluded Gallop

Qantas Socceroos Head Coach Holger Osieck is looking forward to playing this important 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifier in

Melbourne.

“The larger capacity of this stadium will allow us to have a big crowd to support our team for this match,” Osieck said.

“Our players always enjoy playing in front of a large home crowd and we looking forward to see that happen again for this match,” concluded Osieck.

Tickets for this match will go on-sale from www.footballaustralia.com.au/tickets to the Football Family members from 12pm (AEDT) Thursday 22 November until 11pm Monday 26 November and to the general public from 9am Thursday 29 November.

FIFA World Cup Qualifier
Qantas Socceroos v Jordan
Docklands, Melbourne
Tuesday, 11 June 2013
Kick-Off time – 7:30pm AEST
Ticket Prices – General Public
Category A - \$95 all tickets
Category B - \$65 Adult, \$35 Concession, \$165 Family
Category C - \$40 Adult, \$20 Concession, \$95 Family
Australian Active Area - \$45 Adult, \$25 Concession
Ticket Prices –Football Family
Category A - \$85.50 all tickets
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Category C - \$36.00 Adult, \$18 Concession, \$85.50 Family,
Australian Active Area - \$40.50 Adult, \$22.50 Concession



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FFA announces new broadcast deal

“Unprecedented coverage and audience reach for Australian football”

Football Federation Australia (FFA) has announced a new set of broadcast arrangements that will provide unprecedented coverage and audience reach for the Qantas Socceroos and Hyundai A-League.

The four-year agreements with partners FOX SPORTS, Foxtel and SBS will provide Australian viewers with comprehensive, world-class coverage on multiple platforms, including subscription TV, free-to-air TV, internet and digital devices.

Commencing from 1 July 2013, the new set of arrangements will deliver a total economic value of \$160 million to Australian football. The economic value consists of \$148 million in cash and \$12 million in marketing support.

The average yearly licence fee for these broadcast arrangements is double the annual fee of the existing broadcast arrangements.

A renewed partnership with FOX SPORTS involving coverage of the Qantas Socceroos and Hyundai A-League is the key pillar of the new arrangements.

FOX SPORTS will provide exclusively live coverage of all Socceroos matches until 30 June 2017.

FOX SPORTS will continue as the primary broadcaster of Australia's premier club football competition the Hyundai A-League, providing live coverage of all regular season and finals matches until 30 June 2017.

In addition, FOX SPORTS will be the Australian rights holder of the AFC Asian Cup Australia 2015, broadcasting exclusively live coverage of the 32-match tournament.

The TV Deal In A Nutshell

- **New deal commences from the 2013-14 season**
- **\$160 million over 4 years (\$148 million cash / \$12 million in advertising support)**
- **Fox Sports to telecast all A-League & all Socceroo games live**

Under the agreement, SBS has the rights to:

- **One LIVE Hyundai A-League match per week on a Friday night;**
- **All Hyundai A-League Finals Series matches on a one hour delay;**
- **The Hyundai A-League Grand Final on a one hour delay;**
- **A weekly highlights show;**
- **Online and mobile rights including simultaneous streaming and highlights; and**
- **Radio rights.**

- **SBS will broadcast the Socceroos FIFA World Cup Qualifiers on a one hour delay.**

The renewal of the FOX SPORTS and FFA partnership will extend the relationship to 12 continuous years.

Under the new arrangements, SBS will provide free-to-air coverage on a one-hour delay of all Qantas Socceroos FIFA World Cup qualification matches played in Australia and overseas from now until 2017.

SBS has provided free-to-air coverage of the Qantas Socceroos' past two 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian qualification matches against Jordan (11 September) and Iraq (16 October) under interim arrangements.

Commencing in the 2013/14 season, SBS will provide live free-to-air coverage of the Friday Night Hyundai A-League regular season match and a one-hour delay free-to-air coverage of all finals matches.

SBS Managing Director Michael Ebeid said SBS was proud to be part of a partnership that would give all Australians access to the Hyundai A-League and Qantas Socceroos.

“SBS has always championed the sports which unite communities and the world and with football being the world's biggest game it is fitting that the Hyundai A-League and Qantas Socceroos will now have a free-to-air presence on SBS, building on our strong football pedigree,” Ebeid said.

“This deal is exciting news for football fans across the country and will give all Australians access to matches like never before.

“It's a partnership which will help take the domestic game in Australia to the next level and SBS is excited to be working with the FFA and FOX SPORTS to help grow the game.

“Broadcast of the Socceroos will complement SBS's FIFA World Cup coverage which SBS has the rights to all editions up to and including 2022.”

FFA CEO Mr Gallop has warmly welcomed SBS as another important partner in the growth story of Australian football.

“SBS will significantly extend the audience reach of our major games for the Qantas Socceroos and in the Hyundai A-League, with benefits for our fans, clubs and sponsors,” he said.

“The network has a long history of covering Australian football and today we open a new and exciting chapter together.”

Mr Gallop also welcomed Foxtel's formal partnership with FFA in providing sponsorship and promotional support during the upcoming contract period.

“Foxtel recognises the value of football and its broad and diverse demographic family. The association will support Foxtel's broad portfolio of football content,” he said.

Foxtel CEO, Richard Freudenstein, said that in 2005 Foxtel had backed FOX SPORTS and FFA to build a new vision for football and its broadcast in Australia.

“Eight years later we are seeing the fruits of a new summer sport with great young talent and international superstars - its young, cool and gathering interest from Australian families like never before,” said Freudenstein.

“It is our pleasure to again back FOX SPORTS and FFA with the addition of a new sponsorship aimed at grassroots football in Australia.”

Osieck announces provisional squad for EAFF East Asian Cup

Qantas Socceroos Head Coach Holger Osieck has selected a provisional squad of 25 players for the East Asian Football Federation (EAFF) East Asian Cup 2013 qualifying tournament which will be held from 1-9 December 2012 in Hong Kong.

Due to the tournament being played outside official FIFA match dates, Osieck has selected players who are currently playing in the Hyundai A-League, have completed their seasons or are about to go on their mid-season break. Aziz Behich, Eli Babalj and Tom Rogic return to the Qantas Socceroos squad after making their debuts against the Korea Republic last week as well as Robbie Cornthwaite who scored his first senior international goal and Michael Thwaite.

Terry Antonis and Adam Taggart receive their his first call-up to a Qantas Socceroos squad after recently helping the Qantas Young Socceroos qualify for the 2013 FIFA U-20 World Cup at the AFC U-19 Championship in the UAE.

Other players to receive their first selection in a Qantas Socceroos squad include Ivan Franjic, Rostyn Griffiths, Ben Halloran, Aaron Mooy and Osama Malik along with Dino Djulbic and Matt Smith who all recently received their relevant international clearances to represent Australia.

The Qantas Socceroos will assemble in Sydney for a pre-tournament camp from 26-29 November and will depart for Hong Kong on 30 November. Osieck will name his final squad that will travel to the tournament on Thursday 29 November.

The EAFF East Asian Cup is a

four-team tournament for Men & Women which is held every four years rotating between Japan, Korea Republic & China PR as the host nation.

The teams that will participate in the EAFF East Asian Cup for men are Japan, Korea Republic & China PR with a fourth team determined by a qualification process. The qualifiers for the men's edition of the EAFF East Asian Cup 2013 will be played in Hong Kong from 1-9 December 2012 and will involve teams from Australia, Chinese-Taipei, Guam, Hong Kong & DPR Korea.

The Men's & Women's EAFF East Asian Cup 2013 will be held concurrently in Seoul, Korea Republic from 20-28 July 2013.

Socceroo Squad

Terry ANTONIS (Sydney FC), **Eli BABALJ** (Zvezda Beograd, SERBIA), **Aziz BEHICH** (Melbourne Heart), **Robert CORNTHWAITE** (Chunnam Dragons, KOREA REP), **Dino DJULBIC** (Guizhou Renhe, CHINA), **Ivan FRANJIC** (Brisbane Roar), **Brett EMERTON** (Sydney FC), **Eugene GALEKOVIC** (gk) (Adelaide United), **Richard GARCIA** (Melbourne Heart), **Rostyn GRIFFITHS** (Guangzhou R&F, CHINA PR), **Ben HALLORAN** (Brisbane Roar), **Scott JAMIESON** (Perth Glory), **Osama MALIK** (Adelaide United), **Michael MARRONE** (Melbourne Heart), **Matt MCKAY** (Busan I Park, KOREA REP), **Mark MILLIGAN** (Melbourne Victory), **Aaron MOOY** (Western Sydney Wanderers), **Tom ROGIC** (Central Coast Mariners), **Mat RYAN** (gk) (Central Coast Mariners), **Matt SMITH** (Brisbane Roar), **Adam TAGGART** (Newcastle Jets), **Archie THOMPSON** (Melbourne Victory), **Michael THWAITE** (Perth Glory FC), **Dario Vidosic** (Adelaide United), **Luke WILKSHIRE** (Dinamo Moscow, RUSSIA).



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SCOREBOARD

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Adelaide United	7	5	1	1	10	4	6	16
2 Central Coast Mariners	7	4	2	1	13	6	7	14
3 Newcastle Jets	7	4	0	3	11	13	-2	12
4 Perth Glory	7	3	1	3	8	7	1	10
5 West Sydney Wanderers	7	3	1	3	5	5	0	10
6 Melbourne Victory	7	3	1	3	12	16	-4	10
7 Wellington Phoenix	7	2	2	3	10	9	1	8
8 Brisbane Roar	7	2	1	4	11	10	1	7
9 Melbourne Heart	7	2	1	4	8	9	-1	7
10 Sydney FC	7	2	0	5	11	20	-9	6

THIS WEEK	ROUND 8	FIXTURE	VENUE	LOCAL	AEDT
	Fri Nov 23	Sydney FC v Adelaide United	Allianz Stadium	7:30pm	7:30pm
	Sat Nov 24	Melbourne Heart v Newcastle Jets	AAMI Park	5:30pm	5:30pm
	Sat Nov 24	West Sydney Wanderers v Melbourne Victory	Parramatta Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
	Sat Nov 24	Perth Glory v Wellington Phoenix	nib Stadium	6:45pm	9:45pm
	Sun Nov 25	Central Coast Mariners v Brisbane Roar	Bluetongue Stadium	5:00pm	5:00pm

NEXT WEEK	ROUND 9	FIXTURE	VENUE	LOCAL	AEDT
	Fri Nov 30	Melbourne Victory v Perth Glory	AAMI Park	7:30pm	7:30pm
	Sat Dec 01	Central Coast Mariners v Adelaide United	Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
	Sat Dec 01	Brisbane Roar v Newcastle Jets	Suncorp Stadium	6:45pm	7:45pm
	Sun Dec 02	Wellington Phoenix v W Sydney Wanderers	Westpac Stadium	4:30pm	2:30pm
	Sun Dec 02	Sydney FC v Melbourne Heart	Allianz Stadium	5:00pm	5:00pm

ROUND 07 RESULTS

Brisbane Roar 4

(Broich 30, Paartalu 33, Hal-loran 45, Berisha 57)

Sydney FC 2 (Del Piero 42, 49)

Crowd: 22,970 @Suncorp Stadium

Melbourne Victory 2

(Nabbout 10, Milligan 39)

Central Coast Mariners 2

(McBreen 4, 22)

Crowd: 19,462 at Etihad Stadium

Adelaide United 1

(Jeronimo 58)

Melbourne Heart 0

@ Hindmarsh Stadium, 17/11/2012

Crowd: 8812

Newcastle Jets 0

Wellington Phoenix 3

(Brockie 44, 81, Ifill 87pen)

Crowd 13, 116 at Hunter Stadium, Newcastle

Perth 0

Western Sydney 1

(La Rocca 15)

TOP GOAL SCORERS

7 - Daniel McBREEN

(Mariners)

5 - Emile HESKEY (Jets)

Alessandro DEL PIERO (SFC)

4 - Besart BERISHA (Roar)

Marco ROJAS (Victory)

Dario VIDOSIC (Adelaide U)

Jeremy BROCKIE (Phoenix)

Jeronimo Neumann (AUFC)

3 - Stein HUYSEGEMS

(Phoenix)

Ryan GRIFFITHS (Jets)



Daniel McBreen (right) continues his hot streak in front of goal with another brace against Melbourne Victory.

A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK ROUND 07

Compiled by Steven Talevski



GK: Ante Covic – Covic had an incredible game between the sticks keeping a clean sheet away in Peth to help the Wanderers to one of this season's biggest upsets so far.

RB: Jack Hingert – Hingert has stepped in well for the Roar when called upon this season but had his best game of his season on the weekend in a big win against Sydney FC.

CB: Nikolai Topor-Stanley – Playing against one of his old clubs, Topor-Stanley stood his ground well in the centre of defence clearing a number of chances away in a super defensive performance by the Wanderers.

CB: Michael Beauchamp – Partnering Topor-Stanley in the centre of defence is team mate Michael Beauchamp. The Wanderers captain paired well with Topor-Stanley in a fantastic defensive performance for the boys from Western Sydney.

LB: Tony Lochhead – It was a difficult choice this week for the left back position but Lochhead just pit's Adelaide's Cassio after a fantastic performance against the Jets after a long flight to Newcastle from China mid-week.

CDM: Osama Malik – Since stepping up in the Asian Champions League, Malik continues to show the promise he showed in his break out season with Adelaide as he continues to establish himself as one of the league's best defensive midfielder with another solid performance in a clean sheet.

RM: Marco Rojas – The young Kiwi continues to grow as a player this season and had another awesome attacking performance which includes an assist for Andrew Nabbout's goal.

LM: Thomas Broich – The Johnny Warren Medallist was in ominous form against Sydney FC and scored the opening goal before being a part of several attacks.

CAM: Alessandro Del Piero - His team may be playing poor but the marquee showed off his talents once again this weekend scoring a double against the minor premiers including his first which saw Michael Theo prematurely dive.

ST: Jeremy Brockie - One of three New Zealanders in Goal! Weekly's team of the week, Brockie was a nightmare for his old side to control as he scored a double and could have had a hat-trick if it wasn't for Benjamin Totori failing to pass him the ball with an open net beckoning.

ST: Daniel McBreen – The striker has had an incredible last month and continued his good form this weekend with a double away to the Melbourne Victory.

Coach: Tony Popovic – The former Socceroo lead his side to a surprise victory away to Perth with ten men for almost an hour. His side sat back comfortably and absorbed pressure while also looking quite dangerous once they were able to get into attack.

Star Man

Ante Covic
WS Wanderers



Covic becomes the first goalkeeper to be named Goal! Weekly's star man this season after a tremendous clean sheet. Covic made a number of telling saves especially when the Wanderers went down to ten men.

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Brisbane Roar



4

Sydney FC



2

Match Details

Brisbane Roar 4 (Thomas Broich 30', Erik Paartalu 33', Ben Halloran 45', Besart Berisha 57')

Sydney FC 2 (Alessandro Del Piero 42', 49')

Friday, 16 November 2012

Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

Referee: Alan Milliner

Crowd: 22,970

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael Theo (Gk), 2. Matt Smith (C), 3. Shane Stefanutto, 5. Ivan Franjic, 6. Erik Paartalu, 7. Besart Berisha (18. Luke Brattan 82'), 8. Massimo Murdocca, 10. Henrique (24. Nick Fitzgerald 78'), 11. Ben Halloran, 19. Jack Hingert (4. Matthew Jurman 81'), 22. Thomas Broich

Substitutes Not Used: 20. Matthew Acton (Gk), Yellow Cards: Erik Paartalu 71' Red Cards: Nil

Sydney FC: 1. Ivan Necevski (Gk), 2. Sebastian Ryall, 3. Fabio, 4. Pascal Bosschaert, 7. Brett Emerton, 9. Paul Reid (12. Blake Powell 46'), 10. Alessandro Del Piero, 15. Terry McFlynn (C), 21. Yairo Yau (16. Joel Chianese 78'), 22. Ali Abbas (18. Trent McClenahan 46'), 23. Rhyan Grant

Substitutes Not Used: 20. Vedran Janjetovic (Gk) Yellow Cards: Fabio 19', Sebastian Ryall 29', Alessandro Del Piero 55', Yairo Yau 58', Brett Emerton 90', Pascal Bosschaert 90+2' Red Cards: Nil

Brisbane Roar Returns To Brilliant Best

By Jarrod Ellis

Friday night's clash between the A-League's two crisis clubs resulted in a goal-fest, Brisbane Roar eventually securing a 4-2 win over Sydney FC in an entertaining match.

Brisbane never trailed, going 2-0 up early in the first half but Sydney refused to concede defeat and fought their way back into contention thanks to a brace from Alessandro Del Piero.

Sydney's stand-in coach Steve Corica was visibly deflated after the match and in little doubt as to the source of his team's woes.

"We're leaking too many goals. You can't concede that many goals and expect to win," he said.

"It wasn't a great result for us, but we're not giving up.

"We've got three home games to turn things around and we need a few clean sheets."

In contrast Rado Vidacic displayed an upbeat outlook that was wholly absent after his team's 4-1 defeat to Melbourne Heart last weekend.

"It was very good, the first half was probably brilliant," he said.

"The way we pressed, the way we moved the ball, it was probably the best half so far in this A-League season.

Vidacic made two changes to the Roar lineup that went down so meekly to Melbourne Heart last week, sending Matt Jurman, to the bench for Jack Hingert whilst the out-of-form Mitch Nichols' demotion allowed for Besart Berisha to return after an injury enforced absence.

Brisbane had the better of the opening stages, largely attacking down Sydney's left flank, Ben Halloran and Jurman combining well.

Sydney looked improved in defence and demonstrated that they'd be a potent threat on the counter, Yairo Yau's speed making him an excellent outlet as the Sky Blues attempted to catch the Brisbane defence high.



Erik Paartalu doubles the Roar's lead in a matter of minutes to heap the misery on SFC. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

Brisbane had the ball in the back of the net in the 13th minute, Berisha latching onto a through ball from Broich but the assistant's flag was raised, the Albanian striker correctly judged offside.

The home side did ultimately get on the scoreboard in the 30th minute, a disastrous defensive effort on a free kick from Sydney allowed a 40-yard Thomas Broich free kick to bounce inside the six-yard box as a flat-footed Ivan Necevski simply watched the ball nestle into the net.

Paartalu then added a second

only three minutes later, meeting a Thomas Broich cross from the left, his header was kept out by Necevski, but the ball fell to the feet of the big Roar midfielder and he hit the ball back into the roof of the net.

Alessandro Del Piero displayed his class in the 42nd minute, a stunning strike bringing his side back within a goal before half time. Collecting the ball five meters out from the Brisbane area the Italian master hit a swerving left footed shot that powered into the bottom corner of Michael Theo's net.

However Brisbane's two goal cushion was restored only three min-

utes later, a deflected shot from Murdocca ended up at Halloran's feet on the upper right of Sydney's penalty area and he placed his shot perfectly across the face of goal and into the far corner.

The goals kept flowing in the second half. Barely four minutes after the restart Del Piero struck again. This time he played a one-two with Yau on the edge of the Brisbane area, receiving the ball then faking a shot that left Theo on the floor.

Besart Berisha restored the two goal cushion in the 57th minute, going on a halting run that took him past two defenders and into

the Sydney penalty area before cutting his shot back across Lecevski. Questions will be asked of the Sydney defence, three defenders beaten by the striker in the easiest of manners.

Sydney pressed forward as they attempted to get back into the match once again for a third time. The visitors had some joy down the flanks but some excellent crosses from Del Piero and Brett Emerton weren't met with the same quality in the middle and Brisbane's defence was able to scramble any threat away.



Besart Berisha was back on the scoresheet and smiling again after a week out injured. His slalom run and finish was vintage. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



SFC's Alessandro Del Piero tried his best to resist the Roar onslaught with a quality brace of his own. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

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Adelaide United



1

Melbourne Heart



0

Match Details

Adelaide United FC 1 (Colosimo 58' (og))
Melbourne Heart 0
 Referee: Ben Williams
 Crowd: 8,816 @ Hindmarsh Stadium

Adelaide United: 1.Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c), 2.Osama Malik, 3.Nigel Boogaard, 5.Iain Fyfe, 6.Cassio, 8.Marcelo Carrusca (18.Fabian Barbiero 79'), 10.Dario Vidosic, 14.Cameron Watson, 21.Jeronimo Neumann (11.Bruce Djite 76'), 22.Fabio Ferreira (17.Iain Ramsay 65'), 23.Evan Kostopoulos
 Substitutes not used: 30.John HALL (gk)
 Yellow Cards: Nil
 Red Cards: Nil

Melbourne Heart: 1.Clint Bolton (gk), 2.Michael Marrone, 4.Simon Colosimo, 6.Patrick Gerhardt, 8.Matthew Thompson (9.Dylan Macallister 82'), 10.Josip Tadic, 11.Richard Garcia, 16.Aziz Behich, 17.Jason Hoffman, 22.Nick Kalmar, 23.Mate Dugandzic (15.David Williams 60')
 Substitutes not used: 20.Andrew Redmayne (gk), 24.Sam Mitchinson
 Yellow Cards: Hoffman 12', Thompson 55'
 Red Cards: Nil

Lucky Jeronimo Breaks Melbourne's Heart

By Matt Mays

Adelaide United maintained their impressive start to this A-League season with a hard fought but somewhat fortunate 1-0 scrap against Melbourne Heart on Saturday.

After a number of chances had gone begging, the Reds relied on a huge deflected shot from a lethargic Jeronimo from 25 yards. The win puts the Reds back on the league summit, slowly making their contention heard for a minor championship for the first time since 2006. The match couldn't have asked for a better soccer conditions. Blue skies and sun rained over Hindmarsh. The Chemical Brothers were blaring out around the ground as the players were walking out, and indeed The Reds were hoping to 'Galvanise' on their great start to the season. Adelaide made one change from the side that drew to Perth Glory last weekend, with Watson coming in for Bowles at right back. The game started as good as the weather - bright and heated. Cassio and Ferreira were combining well down the left early on with some lovely build up play.

But it was Heart who were beginning to take a foot hold of the tie. They were slowly gaining confidence, ping-pong the ball all over the park, particularly down the right, but Cassio was on his game. Adelaide were nervous, switching to route-one tactics, but it was not to avail. Jeronimo looked static. The Heart defence had the star-man in their back pocket, and where looking to hit Adelaide on the break. A cheeky Gerhart tried impersonating a Luis Suarez strike (see Liverpool vs Norwich, EPL, 11-12) but his 32nd minute long range lob from inside his own half just crept wide of goal, sparing Galekovic's blushes. Adelaide's best chance of the half came just before the half hour mark. After a drilled corner, the ball fell for Ferreira on the penalty spot, but he failed to make advantage and blasted



Jeronimo Naumann lets one rip, which takes a lucky deflection off Simon Colosimo's outstretched leg before eluding Clint Bolton in the Heart goal. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

a half-volley against the keeper. The former Chelsea youngster should have done better. 37 minutes in Colosimo stumbled in possession just outside his own box (the clash of heads he received early in the half must have knocked him for six!). Jeronimo ran on but couldn't take advantage, hitting it straight at Bolton's legs. Just before the half-time break, Jeronimo looked to make dividends and fired his first shot on target, only to be denied by a quality stop from stand in keeper Clint Bolton. The Reds went in at the break frustrated. 0-0.

United came racing out the blocks in the second half. Boss John Kosmina's half time team talk worked a treat. Some smart play from Marcelo Carrusco earned Adelaide a free kick from 30 yards. Vidosic placed the ball, hoping to recreate the Beckham-est strike at Brisbane a fortnight ago. It wasn't to be this time however as his efforts shaved the bar; unlucky. Just ten minutes of Adelaide peppering Heart's goal, they were rewarded accordingly, but my oh my were they fortunate. In the 57th minute, Melbourne's

Gerhart gifted the ball to Jeronimo deep inside his own half. The Argentine ran on the interception, steadied himself and struck the ball from all of 25 yards, only to take the deflection of all deflections and swerve over the unlucky Chris Bolton into an empty net. 1-0 to United and the Red Army behind the goal went wild. Melbourne showed their frustration with some late challenges. Ferreira victimised from a suspected stamp to the ankle from Aziz Behich. Ramsey (sporting a cracker of a moustache!) the replacement for the last 25 minutes.

From then on, Heart had very little to offer. The Reds seemed very happy to sit on their slender lead. But the best chance of the last few moments fell to Heart's Nick Kalmer from the edge of the box, but he volleyed his first time shot into row-z, something Buddy Franklin would have been proud of! United held on, and the points where in the bag. Adelaide will be relishing the trip to Sydney next weekend now, full of confidence. It may be too early to tip the Reds for glory this year, but the best teams win ugly.

Match Stats		
1	Saves	3
4	Attempts on target	1
10	Attempts off target	5
55%	Possession	45%
7	Corners	5
2	Offsides	7
10	Fouls committed	16



Heart's Patrick Gerhardt manages to slide a foot in to challenge Adelaide United's Fabio Ferreira. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Tangle Fan Dango: Heart keeper Clint Bolton somehow manages to hold onto the ball and simultaneously play a game of Twister. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



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Melbourne Victory



2

CC Mariners



2

Match Details

Melbourne Victory 2 (Andrew Nabbout 10', Mark Milligan 40')
Central Coast Mariners 2 (Daniel McBreen 4', 22')
 Venue: Etihad Stadium
 Referee: Strebre Delovski
 Attendance: 19,462

Melbourne Victory: 39. Nathan Coe, 3. Adama Traore, 4. Petar Franjic, 5. Mark Milligan, 9. Marcos Flores, 11. Marco Rojas, 13. Diogo Ferreira, 14. Billy Celesti, 19. Isaka Cernak (6. Leigh Broxham 78'), 23. Adrian Leijer, 26. Andrew Nabbout, (27 Christopher Cristaldo 70').

Unused substitutes: 1. Tando Velaphi, 8. Jonathan Bru
 Yellow cards: Petar Franjic 61', Marcos Flores 65'
 Red cards: Marcos Flores 90'

Central Coast Mariners: 1. Mathew Ryan, 2. Daniel McBreen, 3. Joshua Rose, 4. Pedj Bojic, 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk, 7. John Hutchinson, 10. Tomas Rogic (5. Zachary Anderson 53'), 14. Michael McGlinchey (9. Bernie Ibini 83'), 16. Trent Sainsbury, 18. Nick Montgomery, 21. Mile Sterjovski

Unused substitutes: 20. Justin Pasfield, 8. Adriano Pellegrino
 Yellow cards: Patrick Zwaanswijk 6', Nick Montgomery 81, John Hutchinson 90+2
 Red cards: Patrick Zwaanswijk 50'

Points Shares in Pulsating Contest

By Daniel Quinn

The Melbourne Victory and the Central Coast Mariners have shared the spoils in a 2-2 draw on Saturday night at Etihad Stadium, which included another Andrew Nabbout goal.

The Mariners got off to a perfect start with Daniel McBreen on 4 minutes, before Nabbout equalised six minutes later.

But the thrilling first-half continued with McBreen emphatically completing his brace, but once again Victory levelled the contest with a Mark Milligan header.

Central Coast were happy to hold onto a point after Patrick Zwaanswijk was sent to the stands with a second booking, before Marcos Flores was too sent off for his second booking.

Socceroo Archie Thompson was a late withdrawal before kick-off because of gastro forcing Victory Coach Ange Postecoglou to start last weekend's hero Nabbout, while 17-year-old winger Chris Cristaldo sat on the bench.

Nabbout was involved almost immediately, on 4 minutes, but his low cross wasn't controlled by Marco Rojas.

The Mariners pushed up to the other end instantly and punished the Victory as a great low Mile Sterjovski cross was finished wonderfully first-time into the bottom corner by McBreen.

But Central Coast only kept their lead for six minutes as Rojas picked out an unmarked Nabbout whose downward header was powered past Mat Ryan in the Mariners goal for his third



Andrew Nabbout shows he's not a one week wonder by scoring again for the Victory. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

goal in two games.

With both sides back on level terms, they both pushed for their decisive second as Michael McGlinchey and Nabbout were denied by the two 'keepers.

Central Coast weren't going to be denied next though as McBreen ran onto a long ball, out muscled Petar Franjic, sent the defender the wrong way, before emphatically blasting his strike into the back of the net.

Victory penetrated down the right flank with the skilful Rojas, Flores and Diogo Ferreira involved in plenty of the moves as the trio linked up and pierced the Mariners back four, but all to no avail.

Five minutes before the half-time break from that right side Victory equalised again, as a magnificent Isaka Cernak curling free-kick was headed home by an unmarked Milligan.

Early in the second period the game was completely changed

as Patrick Zwaanswijk was given his second yellow card for an elbow to the back of Flores, therefore was sent to the stands.

Victory went close to finding a winner on 67 minutes as Rojas picked the pocked of Trent Sainsbury in the Victory attacking six yard box, although Pedj Bojic cleared Rojas' effort off the line.

With twenty minutes remaining Postecoglou gave Cristaldo his debut, replacing Nabbout, who had worked his socks off.

Cristaldo, born in Asuncion, Paraguay is a speedy winger and son of Victor, an ex-Melbourne Knights midfielder.

The second-half was very flat compared to the frenetic first, as the Mariners got men behind the ball and looked to be happy with a point, while Melbourne Victory pushed for a winner.

Both sides finished with ten men as Flores received his second yellow on the edge of stoppage-time for a late foul on Sainsbury.



Marcos Flores sees red and receives his marching orders late in the match. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Daniel McBreen continues his incredible form in front of goals with a brace for the Mariners. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

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Brockie Returns To Haunt Former Club Jets

Newcastle Jets

0

Wellington Phoenix

3

Match Details

Newcastle Jets 0
Wellington Phoenix 3
 (Brockie 44', 82', Ifill 87')
 Referee: Chris Beath
 At Hunter Stadium
 Crowd: 13,116

Newcastle Jets: 2. Scott Neville, 3. Tiago, 4. Josh Mitchell, 7. James Brown (19. Michael Bridges 82'), 8. Ruben Zadkovich, 9. Emile Heskey, 12. Joshua Brillante, 16. Jobe Wheelhouse, 17. James Virgili (22. Adam Taggart 59'), 20. Mark Birighitti (Gk) (Matthew Nash 65'), 23. Ryan Griffiths
 Substitutes Not Used: 11. Connor Chapman

Yellow Cards: Mitchell 86'
Red Cards: Nil

Wellington Phoenix: 1. Mark Paston (Gk), 2. Manny Muscat, 3. Tony Lochhead, 6. Alex Smith, 7. Leo Bertos, 8. Paul Ifill (12. Tyler Boyd 90+1), 11. Jeremy Brockie (28. Ricardo Clarke 90+1), 16. Louis Fenton (9. Benjamin Totori 80'), 17. Vince Lia, 18. Ben Sigmund, 22. Andrew Durante
 Substitutes Not Used: 20. Glen Moss (Gk)

Yellow Cards: Nil
Red Cards: Nil

By Shaun Dyas

The Wellington Phoenix has defeated the Newcastle Jets 3-0 at Hunter stadium in front of a crowd of 13,116 people.

Former Jets striker Jeremy Brockie was the destroyer for the visitor, scoring twice as he came back to haunt his home side. Paul Ifill added a third from the penalty spot with 3 minutes remaining.

Phoenix coach Ricki Herbert was delighted with the performance of the former Newcastle man.

"I think with Jeremy, the most important thing is hitting the back of the net. He should have had a hat trick tonight," he said.

The Phoenix took the lead against the run of play in the 44th minute. Former Jets striker Jeremy Brockie was the man who was on the end of another teasing delivery from Paul Ifill and knocked the ball home from the edge of the six yard box. The Jets defence simply went to sleep. Out of respect for his former club, the Phoenix striker refused to celebrate.

He followed up with a brilliant lobbed header in the 82nd minute. The ball fell for him at the back post and he comfortably placed his header past Jets substitute keeper Matthew Nash. It was a delightful finish.

Paul Ifill added the third from the penalty spot after a clumsy challenge from Jets defender Josh Mitchell in the 87th minute. Ifill calmly sent Nash the wrong way and the Phoenix escaped Newcastle with three well-earned points. Earlier, the match started tentatively with both sides feeling out their opponent and struggling to create chances. The match then burst to life in the 14th minute. The home side forced a corner and it took the fingertips of Mark Paston to stop the Jets skipper Jobe wheelhouse scoring directly from it.

Newcastle started to control the possession and flow of the match against a Phoenix side that looked to be lacking in confidence after not having won in their last 3



	Match Stats	
2	Saves	4
4	Attempts on target	5
7	Attempts off target	4
61%	Possession	39%
14	Corners	3
2	Offsides	4
12	Fouls committed	10

The Phoenix are flying after landing three unanswered goals against the Jets .Photo: PETER NEVILLE

matches. Wheelhouse began to start linking cleverly with young attacker James Brown as the Jets continued to threaten.

The visitors offered very little in attack in the first half and were content to allow the Jets to control the game. The home side were not able to create anything from the possession and the Phoenix nearly made them pay on 34 minutes.

Leo Bertos chipped in a teasing left footed cross from the right edge of the Jets penalty area that was met brilliantly by Phoenix midfielder Alex Smith. His header from 12 yards sneaked narrowly wide of the right hand post of a fully outstretched Mark Birighitti in goal for the Jets.

Newcastle again began to build

pressure and created a couple of half opportunities through a Scott Neville snapshot and an attempted header from defender Tiago. Paston was none to convincing on either but he managed to keep the ball out of the visitors net.

A corner for the home side on 39 minutes caused all types of drama in the Phoenix box. Wheelhouse floated in the delivery which was met by Brown who badly mistimed is header. It fell at the feet of marquee striker Emile Heskey. He was denied his 6th goal of the season by some desperate Phoenix defending and the smuggled the ball away to safety.

The second half started in a similar vein to the first with the Phoenix content to sit back and protect

their lead. The home side were unable to create any chances of note against some well drilled and resolute phoenix defending.

Wellington had the chance to increase their lead in the 57th minute after more poor defending from the home side. Ifill was again the instigator, this time whipping in a cross for young winger Louis Fenton who ghosted in behind left back Joshua Brillante. He was unable to control his header and it flew high and wide.

Ryan Griffiths tried to spark the home side in the 63rd minute but his powerful drive from 30 yards was well held on this occasion by Paston.

Goalkeeper Mark Birighitti was involved in a painful incident in the

65th minute. Brockie was again through on goal and Birighitti did well to save. In the follow through, Brockie accidentally caught the Jets keeper with what looked to be a knee, holding up the play for several minutes. The keeper had to be stretchered from the field and replaced by substitute keeper Matthew Nash.

Newcastle was getting desperate in their efforts to force an equaliser and went close on 79 minutes. Ruben Zadkovich delivered a low cross which Brown tried to flick on. It went through a sea of legs before being hacked away by the Wellington defence.



Former Jet Jeremy Brockie had a field day at his former stomping ground. Photo: PETER NEVILLE



Benjamin Totori goes for glory when the better option would have been to set Jeremy Brockie up for a hat trick. Photo: BEN NEVILLE

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Mark Milligan breaches the Mariners defence and pulls the Victory level in a pulsating match. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Perth Glory can't believe their luck after throwing everything bar the kitchen sink at the Wanderers goal. PHOTO: CRAIG ECCLES



The long and the short of it. Brisbane Roar made short work of Sydney FC. PHOTO: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Wanderers celebrate after taking a shock lead against Perth Glory. Photo: CRAIG ECCLES



Daniel McBreen scores, much to the delight of Tom Rogic. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



A little shimmy by Alessandro Del Piero leaves Michael Theo grasping for thin air. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Daniel McBreen continues his scintillating goal-scoring form for the Mariners. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Jeremy Brockie seems to have discovered his pre-season shooting boots again. Photo: BEN NEVILLE



Jets keep Mark Birighitti is stretchered off the ground after coming off second best. Photo: BEN NEVILLE



Sydney FC Line Up

1. Ivan Necevski (gk)
 2. Sebastian Ryall
 3. Fabio
 4. Pascal Bosschaart
 6. Jason Culina
 7. Brett Emerton
 8. Adam Griffiths
 10. Alessandro Del Piero
 12. Blake Powell
 15. Terry McFlynn
 16. Joel Chianese
 17. Terry Antonis
 18. Trent McClenahan
 20. Vedran Janjetovic (gk)
 21. Yairo Yau
 22. Ali Abbas
 23. Rhyan Grant
- *Two to be omitted

Ins: Jason Culina (returns from injury), Adam Griffiths (returns from injury), Terry Antonis (returns from international duty - Qantas Young Socceroos)

Outs: Paul Reid (not selected)

Unavailable: Nil

Sydney FC v Adelaide United

Fri Nov 23 Allianz Stadium 7:30pm

By ffa

It might still be too early in the season to write their campaign off with another loss but Sydney must start to show some improvements soon. The Sky Blues are already four points adrift of the top six and a few more losses will give the new coach plenty of work to do to turn things around.

Last Friday night's 4-2 loss to Brisbane was the club's third on the trot and fifth from just seven games. Sydney can take some heart from the fact they were unbeaten against Adelaide last season and they enjoy the better of the head-to-head record. But the Reds have proved to be a much tougher proposition this season and have game-breakers all over the park.

Sydney should be boosted by the return of experienced central-defender Adam Griffiths, while young midfielder Terry Antonis is also fit again. But the biggest in could be former Qantas Socceroos midfielder Jason Culina who looks set for a spot on the bench, almost two years since his last competitive hit-out.

Adelaide's squad is far more settled and it would be highly unlikely that coach John Kosmina will make any changes to the side that beat Melbourne Heart 1-0 last weekend.

Sydney: It might be stating the obvious but Sydney need to show more resilience and urgency in defence if they are to stop the rot. The numbers tell the story - 14 goals conceded in the past three games and 20 for the season. It's just not

Culina Set To Return To Action

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #SYDvREDS

good enough if they want to play finals football.

And it's not just the back four that need to improve, with more protection from the midfielders a good start. With Italian superstar Alessandro Del Piero firing they have had no trouble scoring goals so interim coach Steve Corica should have been doing nothing but defensive drills this week.

Adelaide: All is going swimmingly with the Reds but if there's one area for concern for Kosmina it could be keeping his squad happy.

Strikers Bruce Djite and Sergio van Dijk can't break into the team at the moment and won't be content to sit on the bench - or out of the squad altogether - for much longer.



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The likes of Jon McKain and Zenon Caravella are also set to return soon and will want first-team action. Kossie will need to keep all the squad's egos in check if the Reds are to keep their splendid run going.

Jeronimo Neumann: He's got the best name in the Hyundai A-League and the Argentine has been a shining light in the Reds' rise to the top of the table. It's not just his goals (Jeronimo has netted four times), which have been so important but the 26-year-old has also chipped in with a couple of assists in the opening seven rounds.

Jeronimo's form has been so good he is keeping both Djite and van Dijk out of the side and he will rel-

ish the chance to attack Sydney's porous defence.

One side is without a coach, leaking goals at a rate of knots and stranded on the bottom of the ladder while the other is on a four-game unbeaten run and setting the pace at the top of the league. Should be a formality right? Well maybe not.

There's no doubt the Reds deserve to be warm favourites but surely Sydney can't play any worse than they have the past few weeks. The return of a couple of key players will also help the home side's cause. But will it be enough? Probably not.

**Kiss of Death
Sydney 2-1 Adelaide**



Adelaide Utd Line Up

1. Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c)
2. Osama Malik
3. Nigel Boogaard
5. Iain Fyfe
6. Cassio
8. Marcelo Carrusca
10. Dario Vidosic
11. Bruce Djite
14. Cameron Watson
17. Iain Ramsay
18. Fabian Barbiero
20. Paul Izzo (gk)
21. Jeronimo Neumann
22. Fabio Ferreira
23. Evan Kostopoulos

Ins: Paul Izzo (gk) (back from international duty - Qantas Young Socceroos)

Outs: John Hall (gk) (returns to NYL squad)

Unavailable: Jon McKain (leg - under review), Daniel Bowles (hip - 1 week), Jake Barker-Daish (groin - 3 weeks)

MELBOURNE
HEART



Heart Line Up

1. Clint Bolton (GK)
 2. Michael Marrone
 4. Simon Colosimo
 5. Fred
 6. Patrick Gerhardt
 8. Matthew Thompson
 9. Dylan Macallister
 10. Josip Tadic
 11. Richard Garcia
 14. GolGol Mebrahtu
 15. David Williams
 16. Aziz Behich
 17. Jason Hoffman
 18. David Vrankovic
 19. Ben Garuccio
 20. Andrew Redmayne (GK)
 21. Steven Gray
 22. Nick Kalmar
 24. Sam MITCHINSON
- *Four to be omitted

Ins: 5. Fred (c) (returns from injury), 14. GolGol Mebrahtu, 18. David Vrankovic (returns from international duty - Qantas Young Socceroos), 19. Ben GARUCCIO (returns from international duty - Qantas Young Socceroos)

Outs: 13. Jonatan Germano (Fitness - undisclosed), 23. Mate Dugandzic (broken foot 8-12 weeks), 31. Vince Grella (fitness - undisclosed)

Unavailable: Nil

Melbourne Heart v Newcastle Jets

Sat Nov 24 AAMI Park 5:30pm

By Ian Syson

If Sigmund Freud had written Country and Western songs he might have penned a little polka, 'Your Schizophrenic Heart'. And latter-day, wanna-be Nick Hornby's could have cited the song as a way to convey the inexplicable experience of watching Melbourne Heart FC play football: shit one week; sugar the next.

But he didn't. And so we must try to dissect the Heart unaided by cultural analogy to work out just where they are going wrong.

Like a cracked record I keep repeating my diagnosis:

1) They are good and largely steady at the back - though odd lapses means that a largely underworked Bolton is yet to keep a clean sheet this season. The goal by Adelaide last week was plain dumb deflected luck - albeit assisted by a poor pass from Colosimo, whose probably damaged brains were being kept in place by 6000 stitches in his head and a big fuck-off bandage administered early in the game.

2) They are solid coming out from midfield. Thompson is good and Gerhardt understands his role in getting the team moving forward from the back. Behich is vital and provides energetic inspiration from left back. At least two goals this season have been direct results of his gutsy efforts.

3) "Now we have the ball up this end (ie the front third), what do we do with it?" seems to be the regular



The Odds

Heart 2.25
Draw 3.40
Jets 3.20

Your Schizophrenic Heart

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #MHvJETS

cry of the Heart attacking midfielders and forwards. Only Victory and Roar have felt the power of a pumping Heart that has been able to move the energy all the way up the field. Other games Heart has been a headless and scoreless chook. Last week by all reports, Heart was pathetic.

To be fair, the availability of personnel has been as issue. Even so, Heart has played both fabulously and capriciously without its talisman, Fred. It has had the players on the park who can do the job, but structure and effort have let the team down. It is no co-incidence that when Garcia had his best game (further up the

field than usual) Heart were glorious against Roar.

This game will be the first chance to see the now-settled Garcia team up with a fresh Fred returning from injury. Their combination and precisely where they are deployed on the field will be the keys to whether Heart can get a result. If Aloisi gets the planning right and the players are committed we could be in for a cracker.

Not having seen Newcastle play this season and only having heard of one item of interest emanating from the Hunter (Heskey Time™), the only observation I can make is that Newcastle have also not

yet kept a clean sheet, being even more porous than Heart. The loss of well-performed goalkeeper Mark Birighitti will only make the Jets' net look all the more inviting for the Heart forwards. At the other end Heskey's failure to score last week in a bad loss to Phoenix may well have piqued his (and his team's) appetite for goals.

So the game is poised and goals are likely. Judging by the stats, Heart are due to score two goals and the Jets three but I can't see Bolton picking the ball out of his net three times - that way madness lies.

**Kiss of Death
Heart 2-2 Jets**



Jets Line Up

2. Scott Neville
 3. Tiago Calvano
 4. Josh Mitchell
 5. Dominik Ritter
 7. James Brown
 8. Ruben Zadkovich
 9. Emile Heskey
 10. Bernardo Ribeiro
 11. Connor Chapman
 12. Josh Brillante
 14. Taylor Regan
 15. Craig Goodwin
 16. Jobe Wheelhouse (c)
 17. James Virgili
 18. Jacob Pepper
 19. Michael Bridges
 23. Ryan Griffiths
 30. Jack Duncan (gk)
 33. Matthew Nash (gk)
- *Four to be omitted

Ins: Dominik Ritter, Bernardo Ribeiro, Taylor Regan, Craig Goodwin, Jacob Pepper, Jack Duncan

Outs: Mark Birighitti, Adam Taggart

Unavailable: Mark Birighitti (Cheekbone), Ben Kennedy (knee), Ben Kantarovski (knee), Adam Taggart (personal reasons)

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Get ready for Melbourne Heart's most exciting season yet. We've got Socceroo legend John Aloisi on board as manager and now we need you! This season our members take centre stage. Become our No.12 and together we will triumph. With 13 massive home games and a great range of membership options - it's time to play your part! Join online at melbourneheartfc.com.au or call 1300 ALL HEART (255 432).

FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME





Wanderers Line Up

1. Ante Covic (GK)
2. Shannon Cole
3. Adam D'apuzzo
4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley
5. Michael Beauchamp
6. Jerome Polenz
7. Labinot Haliti
8. Mateo Poljak
9. Dino Kresinger
10. Aaron Mooy
11. Tarek Elrich
12. Tahj Minniecon
13. Joey Gibbs
14. Kwabena Appiah-Kubi
15. Reece Caira
18. Iacopo La Rocca
19. Mark Bridge
20. Jerrad Tyson (GK)
21. Shinji Ono
23. Jason Trifiro

*five to be omitted
Ins: 7. Labinot Haliti, 8. Mateo Poljak, 11. Tarek Elrich, 12. Tahj Minniecon, 15. Reece Caira (all promoted)

Outs: 17. Youssouf Hersi (suspended – two matches)

Unavailable: Nil

West Syd Wanderers v Melb Victory

Sat Nov 24 Parramatta Stadium 7:45pm

By Alex Milic

In Round 8 of the A-League, the Western Sydney Wanderers welcome Melbourne Victory to Parramatta Stadium in Sydney's West. Both sides have three wins and a draw from the first seven rounds.

The Wanderers have won three of their last four matches, yet they've only managed to get the three points once at Parramatta Stadium, while the Victory has lost only one match in the last five rounds.

The home side are coming off an impressive win away to Perth Glory, it is interesting to see the Wanderers have not lost against a side that played in last years A-League Finals, wins against Grand Finalists the Brisbane Roar and Perth Glory is a sign the new club has found its place in the A-League.

The Wanderers marquee, Japan international Shinji Ono is in doubt for Saturday's clash against the Victory due to illness.

The Japanese star called in sick on Wednesday morning and missed his side's training session at Blacktown after waking up with a virus.

Tony Popovic, manager, Western Sydney Wanders says, "He's sick, he rang up this morning and we believe he's got the flu



The Odds

WSW 2.80
Draw 3.40
Victory 2.60

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #WSWvMV

Wanderers Prepare for Victory Visit

ABC Radio broadcast: Grandstand Digital and Online.

so we'll get him to the doctor today and see how he is but we certainly hope he's not out for too long."

Popovic says, "Today's the first session back from the trip (to Perth) so hopefully he'll be OK tomorrow or Friday and we'll assess him then."

"We'll see how he is during the week, we've still got two trainings after today and then we'll decide on the formation and the team.

"We're certainly hoping that he'll train tomorrow but until he sees a doctor we won't know too much."

Victory have been in impres-

sive form, with fantastic 3:2 wins against the Wellington Phoenix and Sydney FC giving the side some well needed confidence after a slow start to the season. Last week Ange Postecoglou's men drew 2:2 against last season's minor premiers the Central Coast Mariners, and will be looking to continue their great form with a win away to the Wanderers. Postecoglou believes the sky is the limit for 21 year old Marco Rojas, with the young winger's fine performance in the 2-2 draw with the Mariners just a glimpse of his talent.

Postecoglou says, "He's a really

good kid and he wants to learn, and we're trying to make him a better player. I think sometimes with talented young kids, people throw them in there and just expect them to develop.

He says, "We're actually working hard to make him a better player, so the strengths he's got, we can make them more effective."

The New Zealand youngster has scored four goals in seven this season, and will have to be at his best to break the Wanderers defence.

**Kiss of Death
Wanderers 1-1 Victory**



Victory Line Up

1. Tando Velaphi (GK)
2. Matthew Foschini
3. Adama Traore
4. Petar Franjic
5. Mark Milligan
6. Leigh Broxham
7. Gui Finkler
8. Jonathan Bru
10. Archie Thompson
11. Marco Rojas
13. Diogo Ferreira
14. Billy Celeski
16. Theo Markelis
17. Jimmy Jeggo
19. Isaka Cernak
23. Adrian Leijer (C)
26. Andrew Nabbutt
27. Chris Cristaldo
39. Nathan Coe (GK)

*Four to be omitted

Ins: Archie Thompson (returns from illness), Gui Finkler (returns from injury), Matthew Foschini, Theo Markelis, Jimmy Jeggo (all promoted)

Outs: Marcos Flores (suspended)

Unavailable: nil



Glory Line Up

- 1.Danny Vukovic (gk)
- 3.Bas van den Brink
- 4.Billy Mehmet
- 5.Steve Pantelidis
- 6.Nick Ward
- 7.Jacob Burns (c)
- 8.Dean Heffernan
- 9.Shane Smeltz
- 10.Liam Miller
- 11.Adrian Zahra
- 13.Travis Dodd
- 14.Steven McGarry
- 15.Brandon O'Neill
- 17.Chris Harold
- 18.Jesse Makarounas
- 19.Josh Risdon
- 21.Scott Jamieson
- 22.Ndumba Makeche
- 23.Michael Thwaite
- 30 Lewis Italiano (gk)

*Five to be omitted
Ins: 7.Jacob Burns (returns from injury) 9.Shane Smeltz, 18.Jesse Makarounas , 15.Brandon O'Neill, 22.Ndumba Makeche (both promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 16.Evan Berger (hamstring – TBA)

Perth Glory v Wellington Phoenix

Sat Nov 24 nib Stadium 9:45pm

By Joe Gallagher

When the A-League rolled out it's 'Rivalry Round' a season ago, the most artificial pairing of the lot was between Wellington Phoenix and Perth Glory.

Without the tension, proximity or history of the round's other fixtures, the Phoenix-Glory matchup always appeared to be there to make up the numbers. But, on closer inspection, there is plenty of venom to this fixture.

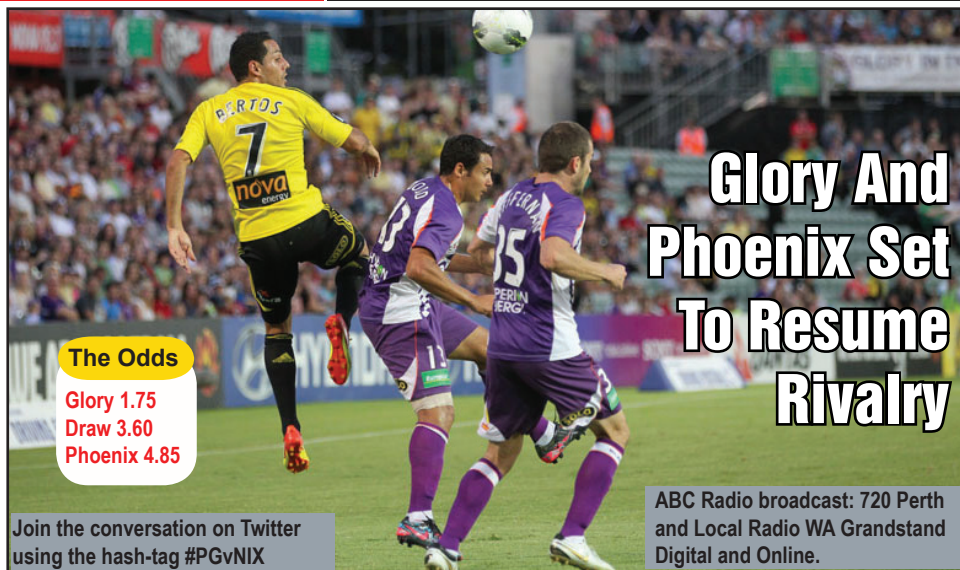
Aside from the travel – the largest domestic away trip in world football – matches between these two sides have always been closely-fought affairs. In their 17 competitive meetings, 12 have been decided by a solitary goal, or finished square.

Five players currently on either squad's roster have played for both clubs, adding extra spice to the contest.

And in the past three finals series, the sides have met twice; Wellington progressing via a penalty shootout in 2010 and Perth advancing after a pulsating extra-time victory in April this year. In both instances home advantage has, unsurprisingly, been the decisive factor.

At home, then, Perth are deserved favourites. They have started the season at a canter and will consider themselves unlucky not to have taken something from last weekend's 1-0 defeat at the hands of Western Sydney. That loss halted a seven game winning run in Western Australia.

But that's not to say their endeavour



The Odds

Glory 1.75
Draw 3.60
Phoenix 4.85

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #PGvNIX

Glory And Phoenix Set To Resume Rivalry

ABC Radio broadcast: 720 Perth and Local Radio WA Grandstand Digital and Online.

was lacking against the Wanderers; twice the Glory struck the woodwork and they came up against an inspired goalkeeper in Ante Covic,

but Ian Ferguson will be worried by his side's inability to put away a Western Sydney side that were down to 10 men for nearly an hour.

They will be very keen to re-establish their credentials as a title challenger, especially after owner Tony Sage this week underlined his own expectations by including himself in the race to sign a now-available David Beckham.

On the other hand Wellington snapped a run of their own; an historically predictable 3-0 victory in Newcastle on Sunday ending a

three-game losing streak, and a winless run of five matches.

Striker Jeremy Brockie seems to have found his shooting boots and Paul Ifill's performance suggested he is working his way back into form. Their attacking stocks will likely be restored to full strength after Stein Huysegems missed the weekend's win due to injury.

But perhaps the most encouraging sign was the defensive effort from a side which very rarely keeps a clean sheet away from home.

But they too will be aware that their position on the ladder is simply not high enough for a squad that appears very capable of topping Ricki Herbert's best season finish.

Three of their last four games have been across the Tasman, yielding only three points. Picking up points in tricky away games like these might be the difference between a side finishing sixth and third in the final ladder.

And a typically congested A-League ladder will make this match-up particularly fiery. Wellington could rise as high as fourth or drop as low as tenth by weekend's end, while Perth could find themselves anywhere between third and ninth by Monday morning.

All signs point to a fierce rivalry's resumption on Saturday.

**Kiss of Death
Glory 1-3 Phoenix**



Phoenix Line Up

- Mark Paston (GK)
2. Manny Muscat
3. Tony Lochhead
6. Alex Smith
7. Leo Bertos
8. Paul Ifill
9. Benjamin Totori
10. Stein Huysegems
11. Jeremy Brockie
12. Tyler Boyd
16. Louis Fenton
17. Vince Lia
18. Ben Sigmund
20. Glen Moss (GK)
22. Andrew Durante (C)
28. Ricardo Clarke

*One to be omitted
Ins: Stein Huysegems (re-turns from Injury)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: Lucas Pantelis (knee injury - indefinite), Dani Sanchez (knee injury – 2 weeks)



Friday, November 30
Kick-off 7:30pm
AAMI Park

ticketek.com.au or call 132 849



Mariners Line Up

1. Mathew Ryan (Gk)
2. Daniel McBreen
3. Joshua Rose
4. Pedj Bojic
5. Zachary Anderson
7. John Hutchinson (c)
8. Adriano Pellegrino
9. Bernie Ibini
10. Tomas Rogic
11. Oliver Bozanic
13. Brent Griffiths
14. Michael McGlinchey
15. Brad McDonald
16. Trent Sainsbury
17. Anthony Caceres
18. Nick Montgomery
19. Mitchell Duke
20. Justin Pasfield (Gk)
21. Mile Sterjovski
23. Adam Kwasnik

*Five to be omitted

Ins: 11. Oliver Bozanic, 13. Brent Griffiths, 15. Brad McDonald, 17. Anthony Caceres, 19. Mitchell Duke, 23. Adam Kwasnik (all promoted)

Outs: 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk (suspended – 1 week)

Unavailable: 22. James Oates (ankle – 2 months)

CC Mariners v Brisbane Roar

Sun Nov 25 Bluetongue Stdm 5:00pm

By Adrian Deans

Second versus eighth. Ought to be a no-brainer, but Brisbane go well at Bluetongue.

In fact, I can't remember the last time the Mariners beat Brisbane – home or away.

This will be a tough game. Brisbane's recent run of poor form more or less coincided with Berisha's absence through injury, and his return against a hapless Sydney saw the Roar back in the winner's circle. He is so important to Brisbane – his incredible energy in putting pressure on the ball panics opposition defences into rushing their passes and attacks just don't get going. Most teams would find this aggravating, but the Mariners, more than most, build from the back and need their wide defenders to have time on the ball. Berisha has been instrumental in blunting the Mariners' attack in the last two seasons.

The Mariners will also be missing Patrick Zwaanswijk after his red card against the Victory. Zwaanswijk has been the cornerstone of the best defence in the league and it will be extremely interesting to see how his protégé Trent Sainsbury goes without his steadying influence. It will also be interesting to see who is paired with Sainsbury at the back. The obvious solution is Zac Anderson, who's been starved of game time since com-



Bluetongue Stadium: Brisbane's Field of Dreams?

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #CCMvROAR

The Odds

Mariners 2.30
Draw 3.40
Roar 3.15

ABC Radio broadcast: Updates only

ing south from the Gold Coast, but Arnold has other solutions and nothing would surprise me from a coach who has proved remarkably innovative and resourceful since the dark days of the 2007 Asian Cup.

The way he's changed his shape and system to suit the players at his disposal has been quite eye-catching. He doesn't have Amini and Rostyn Griffiths anymore – he's got Hutchinson and Montgomery and has changed the way the Mariners are set up and go forward to suit their very different abilities. It took a few weeks to really get into gear but they've started to create options, forcing other teams to pay less

attention to Tom Rogic – meaning he no longer has to beat two markers every time he receives the ball.

Of course, the number one beneficiary of the Mariners' midfield creating opportunities has been Daniel McBreen. He's been in brilliant form in recent times and is (by all accounts) just three goals away from landing another contract. All I can say is that if the Mariners don't want the 35 year old for another season, there will be plenty of others who will.

But McBreen will find scoring goals a lot harder against the resurgent Roar. They would have crushed Sydney last week, if not

for the efforts of Del Piero, and love coming to Bluetongue Stadium – their Field of Dreams.

One of the best games I've ever seen in the A-League was a 3 – 3 draw between these two teams in Season 6. I doubt whether we'll see six goals on Sunday, but I predict another score draw.

Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets – published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores.

**Kiss of Death
Mariners 1-1 Roar**



Roar Line Up

1. Michael Theo (GK)
2. Matt Smith (capt.)
3. Shane Stefanutto
4. Matt Jurman
5. Ivan Franjic
6. Erik Paartalu
7. Besart Berisha
8. Massimo Muroccia
10. Henrique
11. Ben Halloran
13. Yuji Takahashi
14. Rocky Visonte
16. Do Dong-Hyun
17. Mitch Nichols
18. Luke Brattan
19. Jack Hingert
20. Matt Acton (GK)
22. Thomas Broich
24. Nick Fitzgerald

*four to be omitted

Ins: Rocky Visconte (promoted), Do Dong-Hyun (promoted), Mitch Nichols (returns from injury), Yuji Takahashi (promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: Nil

A-League Rewind



By Robert Di Fabio

Australian football has never had an easy route to success. Often, the code has had to overcome numerous adversities on and off the pitch, with varying degrees of triumph. However, there is a new cause for optimism, following Football Federation Australia's record-breaking media deal.

Bookmark Monday, November 19. It's an important date in the game's history; the day FFA inscribed its name within the big players of Australian sport. The governing body put pen to paper on a landmark media deal, which will see the code receive an unprecedented \$160 million – of which \$142 million is in cash, while \$18 million is in marketing support – over a four year period, beginning on July 1, 2013. In a nutshell, the deal will see football return to free-to-air network SBS – following a decade's absence on the domestic scene – together with Foxtel. Pay-TV sta-

tion Fox Sports will show every A-League and Socceroos game live, in addition to the 32-game Asian Cup tournament, hosted by Australia in 2015.

SBS will televise one-live match each round – on Friday nights – a weekly highlights show, all A-League finals games on an hour delay and Australia's World Cup Qualifiers also on a one-hour delay.

While the last TV deal – an exclusive seven-year \$120 million agreement with Fox Sports – garnered a figure of approximately \$17 million a year, the new contract has not only doubled in fiscal value, however the reach is much greater, amid the welcome addition of prime-time Friday games on SBS. Newly installed CEO David Gallop said the inflow of money will assist in achieving the FFA's three primary objectives, those being developing national excellence, offering financial stability for A-League clubs and cultivating a potent relationship with the game's grassroots.

Gallop also revealed that the FFA remains determined to cover the \$2.775 million salary cap for all clubs, with the intention of assisting with the financial burden many A-League franchises are currently facing.



"This announcement comes at a time when the Hyundai A-League is showing its true potential as a shop window for Australian football," said Gallop.

"After seven rounds, average attendance of 14, 285 is up 32 per cent on last year's average, our TV numbers just under 100,000 represent a 35 per cent increase. FFA chairman Frank Lowy was evidently satisfied with what his team had achieved, opening his speech at the media conference with "it's a bloody good day". It's not hard to fathom why the billionaire entrepreneur had a sly grin on his face, following some turbulent times over the past 24

months – where two expansion outfits in North Queensland Fury and Gold Coast United fold, as well as the infamous World Cup bid.

Mr Lowy believes the code is heading in the right direction, and said football should reach its full potential in the next three or four years.

"There's never been any doubt that the game has a bright future in this nation, but today the football family can take comfort from the huge vote of confidence from our broadcast partners," said Lowy.

Fox Sports CEO Patrick Delaney echoed Lowy's sentiments,

paying tribute to the game's loyal fans and ever-improving domestic competition.

"It's great to see the A-League really starting to burst out. We think it's one of the most interesting and exciting and emerging sports in Australia.

"In the last two years the ratings have grown by nearly 100 per cent and that's a very very good sign. I think the A-League and the clubs have got and exciting formula, with fantastic young players coming through, some of our legendary players returning and the Del Piero-factor.

"It's a very good formula for the future."

"Our big games in the big cities are blockbusters and we've enjoyed so much over the seven rounds of football so far."

Whilst the media deal has an array of positive talking points, there's an area which FFA tactlessly failed to neglect, the National Youth League. The NRL's Toyota Cup – the competition's youth division – is televised each week throughout the season. Drawing on the success of the Rugby code, it would have been great to see a similar set-up for football, where a National Youth League game was televised each round. A curtain-raiser to the main event could be been

an ideal scenario – possibly in a Saturday afternoon timeslot.

Not only are youth vital constituents to the code's development, however it gives fans a chance to witness some of the best young crop of players making their way through the system on a weekly basis. As football continues to mature, so should our thirst and knowledge for our local product. Hopefully the NYL gets some added exposure throughout this new four-year tenure.

Furthermore, there is much to look forward to, as football's potential is slowly being realised. Already this season we've seen a notable increase in TV audiences, crowd attendances, club membership, corporate support and a raft of worldwide exposure – coinciding with the marquee coups of Italian sensation Alessandro Del Piero and former England international Emile Heskey.

Overall, this week's news has been well received from the football community. Confidence is certainly brewing amongst the general public; the sleeping giant is not so tired anymore.

Follow Robert on Twitter @ RobertDiFabio

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(ebook also available).





Mat RYAN
 Goalkeeper

2011/12 Mariners Medalist, 2012 Qantas Soccer Squad Member, 2011/12 Hyundai A-League Goalkeeper of the Year, 2011/12 PFA Harry Kewell Medalist, 2011/12 Hyundai A-League Premiership, 2010/11 & 2011/12 NAB Young Footballer of the Year



Daniel McBREEN
 Striker

Scorer of first Mariners hat-trick in Hyundai A-League (round 5, 2012/13), 2011/12 Hyundai A-League Premiership, 2010 Qantas Soccer Squad Member



Joshua ROSE
 Defender

2010/11 Mariners Medalist, 2011/12 Hyundai A-League Premiership, 2011/12 PFA Team of the Season




Pedj BOJIC
 Defender

2011/12 Hyundai A-League Premiership, 2001 Qantas Joys



Zac ANDERSON
 Defender

2012 Qantas Australian U23



Patrick ZWAANSWIJK
 Defender

2011/12 PFA Team of the Season, 2011/12 Hyundai A-League Premiership, 2011/12 Mariners Golden Boot, 2002/03 & 2003/04 Dutch Cup Winner, Over 300 Dutch Eredivisie Appearances, Central Coast Mariners Vice-Captain




John HUTCHINSON (c)
 Midfielder

2001/08 & 2011/12 Hyundai A-League Premiership, Current Central Coast Mariners Captain, 2009/11 Maltese International




Adriano PELLEGRINO
 Midfielder

2011/12 Hyundai A-League Premiership, 2003 Qantas Young Socceros



Bernie IBINI-ISEI
 Striker

2011/12 Hyundai A-League Premiership, 2011/12 Mariners Golden Boot, 2011 Qantas Young Socceros, 2010/11 National Youth League Top Scorer



Tomas ROGIC
 Attacking Midfielder


2011/12 Hyundai A-League Premiership, 2012 Qantas Socceros Squad Member



CENTRAL COAST MARINERS

2012/13





Adam KWASNIK
 Striker

2007/08 & 2011/12 Hyundai A-League Premiership, Central Coast Mariners all time leading goalscorer, 2002 Qantas Young Socceros



James OATES
 Midfielder

2011/12 National Youth League Championship



Mile STERJOVSKI
 Midfielder

2006 FIFA World Cup - Qantas Socceros, 2010 Golden Boot (Perth Glory), 2005/05 Swiss Super League Winner (FC Basel), 2007 Swiss Cup Winner (FC Basel)



Justin PASFIELD
 Goalkeeper

2011/12 Hyundai A-League Premiership, 2005/06 Hyundai A-League Championship (Sydney FC), 2007 Qantas Australian U23




Mitchell DUKE
 Striker

2011/12 National Youth League Championship



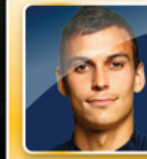
Nick MONTGOMERY
 Midfielder

2005 Scotland Futures, 2003 Scotland U21, Made over 400 first team appearances for Sheffield United



Anthony CACERES
 Midfielder

2011/12 National Youth League Championship



Trent SAINSBURY
 Defender

2011/12 Hyundai A-League Premiership, 2011/12 National Youth League Championship, 2011 Qantas Young Socceros



Brad McDONALD
 Midfielder

2011/12 Hyundai A-League Premiership, 2011/12 National Youth League Championship, 2011 Qantas Australian U23 Squad Member



Michael MCGLINCHEY
 Midfielder


2011/12 Hyundai A-League Premiership, 2012 London Olympics - New Zealand, 2010 FIFA World Cup Squad Member - New Zealand






Oliver BOZANIC
 Midfielder

2011/12 Hyundai A-League Premiership, 2011/12 Qantas Australian U23 Captain, Former Qantas Joys & Young Socceros Representative



Graham ARNOLD
 Head Coach

1985-1987 Qantas Socceros (Player), Qantas Olyroos Head Coach, 2006 & 2010 FIFA World Cup (Assistant Coach, Qantas Socceros), 2007 AFC Asian Cup (Head Coach, Qantas Socceros), 2008 Beijing Olympics (Head Coach, Qantas Olyroos), 2011/12 Hyundai A-League Premiership, 2011/12 Hyundai A-League Coach of the Year, 2010/12 PFA Coach of the Year



Phil MOSS
 Assistant Coach

Qantas Olyroos Assistant Coach, 2008 Beijing Olympics (Assistant Coach, Qantas Olyroos), 2011/12 Hyundai A-League Premiership




John CRAWLEY
 Goalkeeping Coach

2007/08 & 2011/12 Hyundai A-League Premierships (as Goalkeeping Coach)



Andrew CLARK
 Head of Sports Science

2007/08 Hyundai A-League Premiership, 2011/12 Hyundai A-League Premiership (as Head of Sports Science)



Troy HEARFIELD
 Midfielder

2011/12 Hyundai A-League Premiership, 2001/08 Hyundai A-League Champion (Newcastle Jets), 2006/07 Qantas Young Socceros



Brent GRIFFITHS
 Midfielder

Former Blackburn Rovers trainee



CENTRAL COAST MARINERS 2012/13

Back Row: Brent Griffiths, Bernie Ibini-Isei, Justin Pasfield, Tomas Rogic, Patrick Zwaanswijk, Mathew Ryan, Zachary Anderson, Daniel McBreen.

Middle Row: Rik Katte (Team Manager), Andrew Clark (Head of Sports Science), Adam Kwasnik, Pedj Bojic, Mitchell Duke, Trent Sainsbury, James Oates, John Crawley (Goalkeeping Coach), Andrew Nealon (Physiotherapist), Paul McNab (Masseuse).

Front Row: Brad McDonald, Anthony Caceres, Joshua Rose, Mile Sterjovski, Phil Moss (Assistant Coach), John Hutchinson (Captain), Graham Arnold (Head Coach), Oliver Bozanic, Adriano Pellegrino, Nick Montgomery, Troy Hearfield.



Boo's World

SUMMER SERIES



By Mark Boric

Who wants Beckham? Not Ange, but everybody else is interested. I think the fairest way would be to have him play one game for each club, boosting crowds in every market.

John Singleton is offering a luxury beach house in Gosford to lure him to the Mariners. Melbourne Heart reckon they will get Hayden Foxe to dress up as Ronald McDonald for all his kids' birthday parties.

Adelaide have promised the services of the world's leading hairdresser in the field of the mullet. Perth Glory will get him a gig

in a QBE ad.

The Wanderers have fallen behind the pack already, having said he could play alongside Ono he told them "It's not good for my image to be seen with her what broke up The Beatles".

Newcastle Jets are also out of the running, with negotiations soon seeing Nathan Tinkler tell Becks he would sell him the club for \$500,000 cash.

Talks with the Phoenix also fell apart pretty quickly through a routine accent issue. He asked what they were offering, and then stormed out thinking they said he sucks.

Becks isn't sure of a move to Brisbane Roar either, our Goal! Weekly insider quoting him as declaring "I don't think Posh would want me talking to the Bakery Group. She disapproves of sweets".

Whilst everyone is chasing Becks, it appears no one is wild about Harry. He remains as unloved as a red-headed stepchild i.e. David Carney

The better Alessandro Del Piero gets for Sydney FC, the worse the rest of the team becomes. It's a

perplexing situation, and the frustration is starting to show when he scores a goal and looks at his team-mates with disdain instead of celebrating, knowing his goal will not be enough to get a result.

Australian football will return to free-to-air television on SBS next season under the new FFA rights deal.

It is touted by the station as football coming home, but that will only be the case if they bring back Andy Paschalidis. The prospect of seeing and hearing more from David Basheer and Craig Foster does not excite.

Brenton Speed must not realise how old his yelling out of "Geronimoooooooo" after the Adelaide Argentinian scores a goal has gotten so quickly. At least he has eased up on the Marrone/Donadoni story at last.

Anyone else feel the people of Poland would have a right to feel nervous had they seen Andy Maher on sideline duties at the Victory v Mariners game? November has him looking like he is ready to begin the Fourth Reich.

In the EPL Manchester United fell to a shock loss to Norwich

City. It's looks like Sir Alex needs to urgently sign replacements for Howard Webb and Mark Clattenburg.

Great performance by Zlatan Ibrahimovic for Sweden last week, scoring all four in a 4-2 win including a Goal of the Century contender. A Swede hadn't destroyed the English national team like that since Sven-Goran Eriksson.

Couple of great misses in the A-League last weekend. An offside flag spared Adrian Zahra's blushes after he scooped the ball over the crossbar from two yards out. Benjamin Totori rounded the keeper and after choosing to shoot from a tight angle rather than square the ball for Jeremy Brockie to tap-in for a hat-trick was lucky to even hit the side-netting. They need to learn from the master of finishing, Socceroo hero Robbie Cornthwaite.

What is it with Newcastle Jets goalkeepers having their heads caved in? A few years ago it was Neil Young, and now Mark Birighitti is in hospital. Hope the are signed up with NIB.



Bring back Andy! The new TV deal would not be complete without Andy Paschalidis anchoring the SBS coverage.

All Nations Cup 2012

All Nations Cup Heads Into Final Round

By Norm Edgar

The second weekend of the All Nations tournament at the Knox Regional Football Centre produced 29 goals as the teams started to sort themselves out with one round to go in the first phase of the competition.

On the Saturday Group 3 produced the most interesting situation with all teams on three points after completion of the second round. Albania having beaten Somalia the previous week needed a win against Mauritius in the second game of the day to put them in the driving seat in the group. However a tenacious Mauritius ran out winners through a Chris Driver goal in the 42nd minute.

In the other Group 3 game Somalia played Seychelles who also won the previous week. In a high scoring seesawing game Somalia won 4-3 having been 2-2 at half time. Seychelles took the lead through Sad Uygur in the 11th minute. Nick Scerri equalised for Somalia two minutes later and Arnold Konjol then put them ahead on 20 minutes but Johnny Ash for Seychelles equalised after 29 minutes. Somalia then took the lead again early in the second half when Kamel Curan scored after 40 minutes. But Somalia then took charge with the equaliser from Cem Sil on 49 minutes and Bura Yapar scored the winner in the 56th minute. This leaves all three teams with one win each with the final round to come next week and goal difference or goals scored which could be crucial to decide which team advances to the quarter finals if the points are still equal.

The first game of the day between Australia and Italy from Group 1 did not end the way history might

have ordained. Australia had reached the final last year and had at least reached the quarter finals in recent years. However they were shell shocked by an Italian team that scored seven goals without reply. Goals from Anthony Colosimo, Arthur Papadopoulos and Sivestre Sonluc in the first half were followed in the second half by two more goals from Arthur Papadopoulos and his hattrick, Peter Sawan and Marco Digregorio to give Italy a very comfortable lead and every opportunity to advance.

The last game on Saturday was from Group 4 where Ireland beat Portugal 2-1 to get themselves back on track to finish in the top two and into the quarter finals. Two goals to Mark Leech, one in each half, was enough to get Ireland home. Portugal scored through Pedro Sequeira early in the second half. Despite putting up a strong fight in both their games to date Portugal cannot make the finals.

The other Group 4 game was played on Sunday between Serbia and France which in a close tussle was won by Serbia 3-2. Nemada Vucic scored in the second minute for Serbia, a lead they held at half time despite France best efforts to score. France did equalise through Josh Kineifo-Okay in the 49th minute and then took the lead with a goal from Ari Ritz in the 56th minute. However Serbia finished the stronger and scored through Bonel Obradovic in the 59th minute and Milos Lujic in the 65th minute to win and qualify for the quarter-finals. The game was played at a fast pace with play end to end. France now play Ireland next Sunday to decide who also qualifies for the quarter-finals.

The final game on Sunday was between Romania and Peru and



Elmedin Klehic (Bosnia) goes down dramatically after being shown the line by Taskin Suleyman (Cyprus). Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

unfortunately for Peru they lost and can only play for pride in the last round. Romania led 1-0 at half time through Yavez Tufan. Danny Bejan scored two in the second half and another from Phil Ajao enabled Romania to run out winners 4-0. Romania play Chile next week to decide which team qualifies for the quarter-finals with both teams on three points after two games, after Chile were beaten by Scotland 1-0 through a late Wayne Gordon goal in the 67th minute. Chile put up a strong fight after going down to ten men after the goalkeeper was sent off in the first half. For long periods Chile attacked the Scottish goal but could not find a way through.

The final game of the weekend saw Cyprus edge out Bosnia 1-0 with a goal in the 22nd minute

from Mustapha Alibey. The clash had its moments with both teams determined to qualify for the quarter-finals. Cyprus won and play Australia next Saturday to try a secure top place in Group 2.

The tournament continues at the Knox Regional Football Centre on the weekend of November 24th and 25th, 2012 with three crucial games on Saturday and a further two games on Sunday to bring the round robin games to an exciting conclusion. Romania plays Chile, Seychelles play Albania and Bosnia play Italy on Saturday, Ireland play France and Mauritius play Somalia on Sunday to determine quarter final places. Cyprus, Scotland and Serbia have already qualified.



Adem Alicevic (Bosnia) tries to take the ball around the Cyprus defence. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Ossie Mustafa (Cyprus) beats a Bosnian tackle. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Group 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Group 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	2	2	0	2	0	6	Q	Seychelles	2	1	0	1	6	5	3 Q
Romania	2	1	0	1	4	1	3 Q	Somalia	2	1	0	1	5	5	3 Q
Chile	2	1	0	1	3	1	3	Albania	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Peru	2	0	0	2	0	7	0	Mauritius	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Group 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Group 4	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cyprus	2	2	0	0	4	2	6 Q	Serbia	2	2	0	0	5	3	6 Q
Italy	2	1	0	1	9	3	3 Q	France	2	1	0	1	8	5	3 Q
Bosnia	2	1	0	1	4	3	3	Ireland	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Australia	2	0	0	2	2	11	0	Portugal	2	0	0	2	3	8	0

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Mariners continue to set the pace in NYL

By Daniel Quinn

In Round 5 of the NYL the Central Coast Mariners continued their one hundred percent record with a win over Perth, while Sydney got off the mark succumbing Victory to their second consecutive defeat, plus much more.

The AIS have been on the wrong end of another thumping, this time at the hands of the Newcastle Jets going down 7-0 on Saturday at Wanderers Oval.

Andrew Hoole opened the scoring just after 17 minutes from close range, before Marko Jasic scored twice in six minutes.

Firstly firing a well struck effort into the bottom corner, before wonderfully volleyed home the second three minutes later.

On 25 minutes Kale Bradbery slotted a fourth, before Jasic completed his hat-trick steering his shot from a Luke Remington cross.

Bradbery from the spot slotted the sixth with only 51 minutes played, before Brendan Gonano for the visitors was sent off for his second booking.

The AIS were punished as Bradbery too completed his hat-trick beating a couple defenders, before beating AIS 'keeper Andre Jannese.

The Central Coast Mariners have maintained their undefeated record with a 1-0 win over the Perth Glory at Intiga Stadium on Saturday.

Despite both sides creating many chances, they went into the break without breaking the



Paulo Retre (Heart) gets airborne after a slide tackle from Jordan Elsey (Adelaide Utd). Photo: ADAM BUTLER

deadlock.

But three minutes after the half-time break the only goal came via a Tomislav Cirjak cross which was neatly finished by Patrick Dixon from close range. A goal line Brent Griffiths' clearance denied Ndumba Makeche's late effort so the Mariners held on for their fifth consecutive victory.

Adelaide United and the Melbourne Heart had to share the points in a 1-1 draw at Hindmarsh Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

After a tight first 45 minutes Heart were reduced to ten men as Stefan Mauk was given a straight red card for an over-the-

top-challenge on Jacob Melling. But on 67 minutes the ten man Heart took the lead as substitute Andrew Cartanos read a poor back pass by Jake Monaco and stroked his effort past Adelaide 'keeper Paul Izzo.

But seven minutes later the hosts equalised as Awer Mabil pounced on the rebound slotting home after an Alastair Bray save.

Sydney FC have secured their first NYL win of the season with a 3-2 win over the Melbourne Victory on Sunday at SS Anderson Reserve.

The Victory opened the scoring as Chris Cristaldo calmly slotted from a nice Theo Markelis through ball, before Alec



Adelaide United's Zenon Caravella sports a mean set of handlebars for Movember. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

Urosevski fired in the equalised pouncing on a goal mouth scramble.

Dimitri Petratos then gave the Sky Blues the lead powering an indirect free-kick into the roof of the net, after Nick Ansell was judged to have played a back pass to Tando Velaphi.

An emphatic Keifer Dotti half-volley into the top corner then extended Sydney's lead, before the Victory wrapped up the scoring with a late consolidation through Connor Pain as the winger tapped in a low Markelis cross.

In Brisbane the Roar and Western Sydney Wanderers

played out a 2-2 draw at Goodwin Park on Sunday.

A deflected James Meyer strike opened the scoring for the Roar after 16 minutes, before Kwame Yeboah simply finishes six minutes afterwards.

But the Wanderers went into the break level as goals from Kwabena Appiah-Kubi and Labinot Haliti in the space of two minutes levelled the contest. Appiah-Kubi firstly on 44 minutes nutmegged Roar 'keeper Matthew Acton, before Haliti tapped in seconds later.

Roar pushed for the winner in the second-half, but all to no avail.

Round 5 Results	
AIS 0	Sydney FC 8 (Peter Triantis 21, 68, Alec Urosevski 36, 37, 63, Nikola Taneski 48, Christopher Naumoff 75, Jarrod Lum 84)
Brisbane Roar 2	(Meyer 16, Yeboah 22)
Western Sydney Wanderers 2	(Appiah-Kubi 44, Haliti 45)
Melbourne Victory 2	(Cristaldo 9, Pain 81))
Sydney FC 3	(Urosevski 11, Petratos 45, Dotti 52)
Adelaide United 1	(Mabil 74)
Melbourne Heart 1	(Cartanos 67)
Perth Glory 0	Central Coast Mariners 1 (Dixon 48)
Newcastle Jets 7	(Jesic 20, 23, 33, Hoole 17, Bradbery 25, 50p, 78)
Australian Institute of Sport 0	

NYL Standings	
	P W D L F A D P
1 CC Mariners	5 5 0 0 11 5 6 15
2 Newcastle Jets	5 3 1 1 16 7 9 10
3 Melbourne Victory	5 3 0 2 14 6 8 9
4 Brisbane Roar	5 2 1 2 9 8 1 7
5 Melbourne Heart	5 2 1 2 6 8 -2 7
6 Perth Glory	5 2 0 3 12 8 4 6
8 W Syd Wanderers	5 1 3 1 8 9 -1 6
7 Adelaide United	5 1 2 2 9 9 0 5
9 Sydney FC	4 1 0 3 8 13 -5 3
10 AIS	4 0 0 4 23 -19 0

Round 6 Fixtures	
Sydney FC v Adelaide United	Leichhardt Oval
Saturday 24 November KO 2:00 PM	
CC Mariners v Brisbane Roar	Centre of Excellence, Tuggerah
Saturday 24 November KO 4:00 PM	
Melbourne Heart v Newcastle Jets	John Cain Memorial Reserve, Thornbury
Sunday 25 November KO 3:00 PM	
Western Sydney v AIS	Campbelltown Stadium
Sunday 25 November KO 4:45 PM	
Perth Glory v Melbourne Victory	Intiga Stadium, Inglewood
Sunday 25 November KO 6:00 PM	

Victory Ends United's Unbeaten Streak

By FFA

Perth Glory and Melbourne Victory have a hold on the top two positions on the Westfield W-League ladder after wins against competition big guns Sydney FC and Canberra United.

With key players missing across each of the teams due to national team duty, a weekend of upsets was rounded out with Brisbane Roar losing at home to Western Sydney Wanderers.

Meanwhile, Newcastle Jets claimed their first win of the season with a 4-0 triumph over Adelaide United to reinvigorate their season in spectacular fashion.

The match of the round saw Perth Glory's Rosie Sutton claim the spotlight with a hat-trick as the home side outlasted Sydney FC in warm conditions.

Chloe Logarzo cancelled out the Glory's opener almost immediately midway through the first half, only for Sutton to strike twice more during the second period for a famous win.

A large and parochial crowd was on hand for the contest which doubled as the Glory's fifth annual National Breast Cancer Foundation fundraiser.

The Glory now sit three points clear at the top, with Melbourne Victory taking second spot off Canberra United with a 3-0 win over the team from the nation's capital.

Champions Canberra were without half a dozen regulars but there was no denying the



Canberra keeper Trudy Burke thwarts Enza Barilla (Victory). Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

merit of the Victory's win as United saw their 18-match unbeaten run come to an end.

Melbourne's imports made their mark with Jessica Fishlock and Jessica McDonald leading the home side to a handy half-time advantage, before Enza Barilla capped a memorable performance as the Victory secured a third win on the trot.

Western Sydney Wanderers claimed their maiden away three-pointer with a hard-fought 2-1 win over Brisbane Roar.

Former Roar striker Catherine Cannuli did the damage with goals early in each half, sandwiched either side of an Amy Chapman strike.

The win moved the Wander-

ers into fourth, just one point behind Canberra, and ahead of both Sydney FC and Brisbane.

In a match featuring the two bottom sides, Newcastle Jets found form with a crucial win over Adelaide United to stay in touch with the leading pack.

It was a timely performance from the Jets who kept a clean-sheet, despite having the worst defensive record in the competition.

The Jets made the perfect start at home with Tara Andrews scoring early and Angela Salem doubling the advantage from the penalty spot, before Kate Hensman and Tori Huster extended the margin in the second half.



Victory keeper Cassandra Dinovski makes her W League debut in style as she takes the ball over the heads of Caitlin Munoz (left) and Maika Ruyter-Hooley. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Round 5 Results	
Perth Glory 3	(Rosie Sutton 18', 76', 85')
Sydney FC 1	(Chloe Logarzo 19')
Melbourne Victory 3	(Jessica Fishlock 28', Jessica McDonald 44', Barilla 70')
Canberra United 0	
Brisbane Roar 1	(Amy Chapman 49')
Western Sydney Wanderers 2	(Catherine Cannuli 7', 56')
Newcastle Jets 4	(Tara Andrews 8', Angela Salem 38' pen, Kate Hensman 51', Tori Huster 64)
Adelaide United 0	

W-League Standings	
	P W D L F A D P
1 Perth Glory	5 4 0 1 13 5 8 12
2 Melbourne Victory	5 3 0 2 6 4 2 9
3 Canberra United	5 2 2 1 9 5 4 8
4 WS Wanderers	5 2 1 2 8 7 1 7
5 Sydney FC	5 2 1 2 9 9 0 7
6 Brisbane Roar	5 2 1 2 5 5 0 7
7 Newcastle Jets	5 1 1 3 8 15 -7 4
8 Adelaide United	5 1 0 4 6 13 -7 3

Round 6 Fixtures	
Brisbane Roar Vs Melbourne Victory	Sat 24 Nov KO 10:00am
Queensland Sports & Athletics Centre, Nathan (QSAC)	
Adelaide United Vs Sydney FC	Sat 24 Nov KO 2:00pm
Burton Park	
WS Wanderers FC Vs Newcastle Jets	Sun 25 Nov KO 2:00pm
Campbelltown Stadium	
Canberra United Vs Perth Glory	Wed 5 Dec KO 6:00pm
Deakin Football Stadium	
All KO times ae AEDT	

Couch Potato



* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT



SBS ONE
Sunday November 25th, 2012
10:30 am Football Asia
11:00 am UEFA Champions League Magazine

Monday November 26th, 2012
11:00 pm The World Game

SBS TWO
Monday November 26th
9:30 pm The World Game



Friday 23rd Nov
02:30 am The Serie A Highlights Show
03:00 am Arsenal TV
08:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights

Saturday 24th Nov
05:30 am The Serie A Highlights Show

Sunday 25th Nov
06:00 am Arsenal TV

Monday 26th Nov
03:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights
12:30 pm The Serie A Highlights Show

Tuesday 27th Nov
03:00 am Arsenal TV

Thursday 28th Nov
02:00 am Magic Of The FA Cup
03:00 am Bundesliga
05:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights



FRIDAY 23RD NOVEMBER
Europa League Liverpool v Young Boys
7:00am **LIVE**
Europa League 5 Newcastle v Maritimo
9:00am 1st Airing
Europa League Rubin Kazan v Inter
10:50am 1st Airing
Europa League Highlights 12:40pm
1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 13 Preview Show
8:00pm 1st Airing

SATURDAY 24TH NOVEMBER
Bundesliga Fortuna v Hamburg 6:25am
LIVE
Copa Sudamericana Semi-Final 1st Leg
Highlights 7:00pm 1st Airing
Scottish Division 3 Elgin v Rangers 10:55pm
LIVE

SUNDAY 25TH NOVEMBER
Npower Championship Wolves v Nottm
Forest 1:55am **LIVE**
SPL St Mirren v Dundee 6:15am 1st Airing
Bundesliga Bayern v Hannover 8:00am
1st Airing
SPL Motherwell v Hearts 9:45am 1st Airing
Bundesliga Mainz v Dortmund 11:30am
1st Airing
Npower Championship Derby v Birmingham
3:00pm 1st Airing
Eredivisie Roda v Ajax 10:25pm **LIVE**
Bundesliga Freiburg v Stuttgart 1:25am
LIVE

MONDAY 26TH NOVEMBER
Bundesliga Hoffenheim v Leverkusen
3:25am **LIVE**
Primera Division Teams TBC 5:10am **LIVE**
Primera Division Teams TBC 9:10am **LIVE**
Eredivisie PSV v Vitesse 1:30pm 1st Airing
Eredivisie Twente v PEC 5:10pm 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 13 Highlights 7:00pm
1st Airing

TUESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER
Npower Championship Round 18 High-
lights 7:00pm 1st Airing
SPL Round 15 Highlights 7:30pm 1st Airing
Eredivisie Round 14 Highlights 8:00pm
1st Airing

WEDNESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER
Bundesliga Hamburg v Schalke 5:55am
LIVE
Bundesliga Dortmund v Fortuna 8:00am
1st Airing
Copa Sudamericana Semi-Final 2nd Leg
Teams TBC 10:55am **LIVE**

THURSDAY 29TH NOVEMBER
SPL Hearts v Celtic 6:25am **LIVE**
Bundesliga Freiburg v Bayern 8:30am 1st
Airing
Copa Sudamericana Semi-Final 2nd Leg
Teams TBC 10:55am **LIVE**
Bundesliga Round 14 Bremen v Leverkusen
1:45pm 1st Airing

Round 08: ASK THE EXPERTS

THE VERDICT

SFC (1) Adelaide (5) Draw (2) - Heart (6) Jets (0) Draw (3) - Wanderers (2) Victory (3) Draw (3) - Glory (5) Phoenix (1) Draw (2) - Mariners (5) Roar (1) Draw (2)

SANTO CILAURO **15**

Draw
Heart
Wanderers
Glory
Draw

Last week: 2

CRAIG MACKENZIE **14**

Adelaide Utd
Melbourne Heart
Draw
Draw
Central Coast

Last week: 3

EDDIE KRNEVIC **12**

Draw
Heart
Victory
Draw
Roar

Last week: 2

PETER KATHOLOS **12**

Adelaide
Heart
Victory
Perth
Mariners

Last week: 1

ROGER SLEEMAN **16**

Adelaide
Draw
Victory
Perth
Mariners

Last week: 2

ANDY HARPER **13**

Adelaide
Heart
Wanderers
Perth
Mariners

Last week: 2

JOHN DOYLE **15**

Adelaide
Heart
Draw
Glory
Mariners

Last week: 2

KISS OF DEATH **14**

Sydney
Draw
Draw
Phoenix
Draw

Last week: 3

The Season That Was



By Peter Simcox

The 2012 Football West season was dominated by Sorrento. The Gulls took out the State League Cup after a 4-3 win against Balcatta in the Final in August, before ending the season with the double after beating Floreat Athena 4-3 to win the Premier League Top Five Grand Final at Frank Drago Reserve in October.

Sorrento, with former Tottenham Hotspur and Wales international Paul Price and former Exeter City and Sheffield United striker Steve Neville in charge, took all before them this season. Their squad was bristling with talent and former Perth Glory central defender Jamie Harnwell was only used sparingly this season, as the northern suburbs club won their first ever double. Former Hull City keeper Curtis Aspden was outstanding between the sticks, while Todd Harnwell, Daryl Platten and James Morgan were excellent in a season long to be remembered by their supporters.

Sorrento finished the home and away season four points behind the league winners Bayswater City. Italian coach Mauro Marchione took the club to its first major title in over 25-years, with Colombian striker Gustavo Giron-Marulanda finishing the season with the Golden boot as the top goal scorer.

As the season drew to a conclusion there were six clubs fighting to reach the end of season finals. The 2011 league winners Balcatta fell away during the last month of the league and after disappointing defeats against Bayswater at home and ECU Joondalup away, saw them miss out this time around.

Bayswater made sure of the title after a come from behind 4-2 win against Bunbury Forum Force in the final game of the season, while Perth Soccer Club beat Armadale 3-0 to book a place in the finals in

Year of the Gull in the West



Sorrento completed the Double to take out top honours in WA in 2012. Photo: BRETT KLUCZNIK

fifth spot.

Inglewood United also impressed in their first season under the tutelage of Graham Normanton, and they won their last two games against Stirling Lions and NTC respectively to finish in fourth spot. Sorrento missed out on the league crown after losing 4-3 to Balcatta in the final game and finished third, while Floreat Athena's first season with rookie coach Chris Barbas was a successful one, with the Litis Stadium side taking out the runners-up spot.

The Cup Final in August was a classic, with Sorrento defended their crown with a thrilling 4-3 extra-time win over Balcatta at Dorrien Gardens. The Gulls unlikely hero was defender Daryl Platten who nabbed the deciding goal just minutes before the final whistle. Man-of-the-match Brodie Martin helped himself to an early brace only to have Moe Atak bring it back to a one-goal game at the break. Todd Harnwell increased Sorrento's lead shortly after the restart but Jason Barrera and Chris Thackray sent the game to extra-time. With spot kicks looming Platten nodded in a deep Stuart Montgomery corner to win it.

The All Flags Top Five Series began with Perth SC beating Inglewood United 2-1 in the Elimination Final, while Floreat beat Sorrento 3-1 in the Qualifying Final. In the

second week Sorrento ended Perth SC's season with a 3-1 win, while league winners Bayswater City lost 3-1 at home to Floreat Athena.

That set up a Preliminary Final between Bayswater and Sorrento, where The Gulls came from behind to win 2-1 to set up a Grand Final against Floreat Athena. In a pulsating game, in front of a crowd of over 2,500, retiring striker Johny Mirco opened the scoring for Sorrento from the penalty spot on half-time, only to have Benny Kovaoio and Mark Pritchard turn the game in Floreat's favour after the break. A final minute equaliser by newly introduced substitute Jamie Harnwell sent the game to extra-time where Jason Mirco and Ryan Pearson put Sorrento's hands on the trophy. Jack Allen grabbed Floreat's third goal in the closing stages of the game.

Johny Mirco could not have wished for a better end to his career. "It was a really good game and to get on the score sheet and be part of the third goal it's a great way to go out," said the Sorrento striker. "We really like to do things the hard way but it was terrific, we've done the same for the last three weeks. To end my career like this - I'm really delighted." Floreat captain Pritchard was awarded the Gary Marocchi Medal for his best on ground performance.

In the annual WA Football Awards

Inglewood United defender Jack Clisby won the 2012 Gold Medal and walked away with a brand new Ford Fiesta from McNerney Ford in the process. In front of over a record 800 people at Crown Perth's Grand Ballroom, Clisby won the league's biggest individual honour by finishing with 23 votes, one more than his Inglewood teammate and captain James Sammut. The top five was rounded out by Sorrento's 2011 joint winner Johny Mirco, Perth SC's Antonio Naglieri and Floreat Athena's Mark Pritchard all on 20 votes.

WA Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	P
1 Bayswater City	22	15	3	4	67	29	38	48
2 Floreat Athena	22	13	5	4	64	34	30	44
3 Sorrento	22	14	2	6	58	37	21	44
4 Inglewood Utd	22	13	4	5	45	30	15	43
5 Perth SC	22	12	4	6	57	33	24	40
6 Balcatta	22	11	4	7	54	40	14	37
7 Stirling Lions	22	8	6	8	40	39	1	30
8 ECU Joondalup	22	8	3	11	44	51	-7	27
9 Bunbury Force	22	6	3	13	26	51	-25	21
10 Armadale	22	6	2	14	27	47	-20	20
11 Western Knights	22	5	2	15	37	73	-36	17
12 FW NTC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

West Australia Honours
Champions: Sorrento
Premiers: Bayswater City
State League Cup Winners: Sorrento
Coach of the Year: Paul Price (Sorrento)
Gold Medal: Jack Clisby (Inglewood Utd)



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MACCA AT LARGE

With Craig MacKenzie

AUSSIE starlet Bailey Wright has been linked with a move from English League One outfit Preston North End during January's transfer window.

The 20-year-old from Langwarrin in Victoria is in the last year of a two-and-a-half-year deal penned under former manager Darren Ferguson in December 2010 and is a free agent at the end of the current season.

"Sky Sports understands Preston are hoping to tie down starlet Bailey Wright to a new long-term deal in order to fend off Premier League and Championship interest," wrote Graeme Bailey last week on the Sky Sports website.

"The 20-year-old has made an outstanding start to the new season, having at one point looking like being sold in the summer.

"Graham Westley has since given the versatile defender his chance and he has impressed hugely for North End.

"Wright, who was picked up by Preston from the Victorian Institute of Sport in 2009, is out-of-contract in the summer and the club are anxious to tie him down.

"However, the Australian's displays have not gone unnoticed and Sky Sports understands that there are clubs in the Premier League and Championship ready to make offers in January to take Wright," the report ended.

Wright cemented his place in Preston's starting line-up with an 11-game run at the end of last season but was shocked when manager Westley met with him in May to tell him that he was being transfer listed.

Westley was overseeing a massive clearance that decimated the first team squad with 14 out-of-contract players shown the door while Wright and six other contracted players were put up for sale.

At the time the manager told Wright that he didn't have time to develop him during the coming season, news that initially devastated the youngster.

A number of clubs showed interest in him including West Bromwich Albion and Accrington Stanley but it was newly promoted league rival Crawley Town that made a solid bid for the then 19-year-old offering him a two-year deal that would have tripled his wages.

It is believed that Crawley Town also was prepared to pay a £50,000 transfer fee for Wright.

But Westley had a dramatic aboutface and took Wright off the transfer list in July and told him that he was back in the first team squad.

However, the defender was knocked unconscious during a training mishap and was unavailable for the first two league games, a 0-0 draw with Colchester and a 1-0 loss to Shrewsbury.

He returned to the starting line-up for a 1-1 draw away to Bournemouth in which he was man of the match and bar missing a couple of games since with an ankle ligament strain has had an outstanding season.

Well, up until the Sky Sports story appeared which coincided with Wright's agent and Preston agreeing to shelve negotiations on a new contract until December.

For reasons best known to himself Westley suddenly dropped Wright to the bench last weekend and never used him as a sub in a 1-1 home draw with Brentford.

Wright started on the bench last Tuesday night in England and although he entered the fray early in the second half Preston had to settle for a 0-0 result again at home this time against Notts County.

That's four precious points dropped in successive home games with Wright out of the starting line-up, points that could have catapulted Preston to the brink of a play-off spot in the league standings.

Was Preston's controversial manager flexing his muscles? We'll likely never know but it's a fair bet that he was.

If there's a new way to antagonise the Deepdale faithful then increasingly it seems that Westley will find it.

Transfer listing Wright drew howls of complaint from Preston fans a few months back and even chairman Peter Risdale breathed a sigh of relief when Wright returned to the fold.

Now that the club is yet to resign him fans are restless once more as the Australian is one of their favourites.

I'm restless too. I like nothing better than watching young players achieve their potential as professional footballers and go on to represent their coun-

Is Bailey Wright bound for EPL?



Suddenly there are a lot of people other than Wright's family and friends now taking a keen interest in this very talented youngster's professional football career.

Prodigious Aussie talent Bailey Wright in action for English League One side Preston North End.

try of birth.

That's Australia in Wright's case even though he also qualifies to play for both England and Scotland.

However, with the exception of a call from Paul Okon months ago Football Federation Australia has not been beating a path to his door.

That is in spite of the fact that Wright played in the 2008 AFC Under-16 finals in Uzbekistan which clearly identified him as a future talent.

We've got a couple more international friendlies on the Socceroos current agenda and it could prove to be a massive oversight to leave Wright in national team limbo.

Particularly if he is the subject of a big money move to the EPL and my info is that such a prospect is on the horizon.

There's another sideline to

the Wright story – if a lucrative move eventuates then three Victorian clubs and Football Federation Victoria will be rubbing their hands in anticipation of a minor windfall in the form of a FIFA compensation payment.

When Wright arrived at Preston North End midway through 2009 he was armed with an agreement signed by Langwarrin, Mornington (where he played one season as a junior) and Dandenong Thunder.

All three clubs agreed a compensation package with Preston and copies of their signed agreements were lodged by the club with the English Football Association.

Those agreements stated that Langwarrin accepts a £5000 compo payment while Mornington and Thunder agreed to

£500 each.

None of these payments have eventuated as I write and that is nothing short of disgraceful. Preston and the English FA see those agreements as binding but Football Federation Victoria, through FFA, threw a spanner in the works last year when it placed a formal claim for compensation with FIFA.

FFV believes that it is entitled to training compensation for the time Wright spent with the Victorian Institute of Sport program. Its claim centres on its view that the now VIS football program was akin to a club.

"The VIS was set up as a club as have all the NTC (National Training Centre) programs across Australia," said FFV CEO Mark Rendell at the time.

"There are continuing issues regarding training compen-

sation payments and it's not unusual for overseas clubs to show some reluctance to making these payments.

"However, significant hundreds of thousands of euros have come into NTC programs throughout Australia which is evidence of these programs being set up legitimately and appropriately to be entitled to such compensation.

"Bailey's situation is the first major one involving the VIS. Irrespective of the outcome we wish Bailey all the best and we are delighted that he's forging a professional career overseas," Rendell ended.

Fast forward to the present and FFV's tune hasn't changed as the compensation issue continues to be pursued through FFA and FIFA.

It's now a long drawn-out affair and I've been told that FFV stands to gain "thousands and thousands of dollars" if FIFA rules in favour of FFA's formal complaint on behalf of its Victorian affiliate.

The matter continues to drag on though as when the complaint was due to be heard by FIFA Preston sought and won an adjournment on the basis that the English club was seeking to be represented by another law firm.

Should the FFV argument eventually win the day it represents a significant sum for its National Training Centre program if that is where those monies end up.

Let's be clear about one thing. FFV and FFA are not disputing the legality of the agreements signed by Langwarrin, Mornington and Thunder.

FIFA will simply rule on the validity of FFA's claim on behalf of FFV.

Mind you, there are three registered FFV participant clubs that would like their federation to at least speed up the process to see them receive the payments they agreed to three years ago.

Then throw in the prospect of Wright leapfrogging into the EPL in January as the subject of a significant transfer fee and the picture changes again.

There will be a juicy kick-down effect of such a move and the three Victorian clubs will become benefactors.

Oh, did I neglect to mention FFV as a benefactor?

Well, they surely will be if FIFA rules in their favour.

Suddenly there are a lot of people other than Wright's family and friends now taking a keen interest in this very talented youngster's professional football career.

I wonder why.

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Jim Patikas: Socceroo speedster and European star

Blast From The Past



By Roy Hay

Jim Patikas was one of the early group of Australian players who followed in the footsteps of Edi Krncevic by establishing themselves in Europe after an impressive career in the National Soccer League and representing the Socceroos. In Patikas's case his Greek heritage led him to AEK Athens where he played from 1985 through to 1993, winning the national championship three times and playing in the three main European competitions of the day—European Cup, Cup Winners Cup and UEFA Cup. He was a blisteringly fast attacker with a fierce shot, though he could be erratic and coaches did try to get him to use finesse rather than power when in good positions.

Jim Patikas was born in Sydney on 18 October 1963. As a junior he played with Leichardt Police Boys Club, Western Suburbs and APIA before joining Sydney City Hakoah in 1979, when he was with the Australian Under-16s. He turned out for Hakoah's State League team until Gerry Chaldi took a punt on the youngster and gave him his debut in the National Soccer League in 1979. His first start was away to West Adelaide in August, but he had already come on as substitute in the derby against Olympic at the end of June. When Eddie Thompson took over the young Patikas said, 'He was like a father to me,' and his career blossomed as Sydney City finished on top of the home and away matches for three years. Meanwhile Patikas was rising through the Australian youth teams. When the Socceroos failed to qualify for the World Cup in Spain in the latter part of 1981 and Rudi Gutendorf resigned as coach, it was decided to field the Young Socceroos in the final 'dead rubbers' against Indonesia and Taiwan. This would give the youth team some serious preparation ahead of their World Cup which Australia hosted in November 1981. So Patikas along with the rest of the Young Socceroos received full Australian caps as teenagers. He was one of the few players to take part on two World Youth Cups for Australia. When Australia began its World Youth Cup finals campaign in 1981 Patikas came on as a substitute in the first two games against Argentina and Cameroon, then started against England in the group stage and West Germany in the quarter-final. In the latter match after Germany went ahead, Patikas won a penalty but Mark Koussas, Australia's top scorer had his kick saved and Australia was out.

Patikas appeared again in 1983 in the World Youth Cup in Mexico scoring the winner against Scotland in what was regarded then as a huge upset. The Young Socceroos drew with Mexico but lost to South Korea and so did not reach the knock-out stage.

In 1983, Tommy Docherty



Jim Patikas, Socceroo. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.



Jim Patikas' bodycheck against JUST clears the way for teammate Gary Phillips. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

signed the talented youngster for Sydney Olympic but when he left Patikas did not hit it off with his successor Manfred Schaefer. So after some hard bargaining between the clubs, he transferred from Sydney Olympic to Sydney Croatia in 1985 for \$25,000. On debut he scored and missed a sitter in the Ampol Cup in a loss to Melita Eagles on penalties. When Vedran Rozic arrived at Croatia as 'coach, captain and mastermind', he would deliver long balls through or over the opposing midfield to exploit the speed of Patikas. Patikas took particular delight in scoring twice in a 5-0 thrashing of Olympic in May 1985. He notched 17 goals in 25 games for Croatia in his most productive season in Australia. He was the Australian and New South Wales player of the year in 1985.

Patikas was called up for the Socceroo B team in the World Series tournament in 1984 by Eddie Thomson. The opposition included Glasgow Rangers, Nottingham Forest and Iraklis. There was a series of nil-all and low scoring draws, something which became common during Thomson's later career as Australian coach. The following year he was regular in the Socceroos playing against clubs teams including

Tottenham Hotspur, Vasco da Gama, Udinese and Red Star Belgrade. When it came to the World Cup qualifiers later in 1985 Patikas was mainly used as an impact substitute by Frank Arok, though he did start in the seven-nil demolition of Taiwan in Adelaide and in the final play-off versus Scotland at Olympic Park. Soon after Patikas transferred from Sydney Croatia to AEK Athens where he was to spend eight seasons. In all he played 142 league games and scored 27 goals. Consequently his overseas commitments limited his international career though he did play four matches for the Socceroos in 1988 against Taiwan, Israel and twice against New Zealand. In all, Patikas gained 27 caps for Australia and scored 3 goals.

He had three more seasons in Greece (after leaving AEK in 1993) with Athinaikos and Kastoria before returning to Sydney United for the 1996 season. He began coaching with Canterbury-Marrickville and also coached Dulwich Hill in the New South Wales women's league and more recently Sydney University's women's team. Jim Patikas has made a big contribution to the game in Australia and as a player was always one of the most exciting and exasperating to watch.



Australian Youth team in 1980, taking part in the Victoria Cup.

Back row, left to right: Rudi Gutendorf (coach), Jim Patikas, Vlatko Belic, Glen Ahearn, Denis Ivanac, Steve Blair, David Mitchell, Calvin Daunt, Danny Wright, Joe Vlasits (assistant coach).

Front row: Robbie Wheatley, David Watt, Brett Woods, Paul Kay, John Little, Craig McClatchey, Peter Raskopoulos.



Moreland keeps 100% record after double round

With the Christmas period fast approaching two rounds for the Nike V-League premiership have been played with Round two played last Wednesday and Round 3 played on Sunday.

Round 2 Review
Ashburton FC have started the season brightly and kept their unbeaten record in tack when they accounted for newly promoted Brighton FC. Ashburton are playing a good brand of Futsal under new manager Gui Costa and they will only continue to improve as the season progresses.
Ashburton FC 4 (A. Farina 2, M. Matar, B. Gearboc) def. Brighton FC 0

The Vipers also proved they are title contenders again this season with a 5-1 victory over CF Brunswick. Kui Mu led the Vipers to a comfortable victory, there were some good signs for CF Brunswick but they will hope to bounce back next week.
Vic Vipers FC 5 (K. Mu 2, L. Holian, H. Tran, A. Cooper) def. CF Brunswick 1 (D. Bosnjak)

Pascoe Vale and FC Balwyn played out a 5-5 thriller in a game that was end to end from start to finish. Pascoe Vale will walk the disappointed of the two as they created the better of the chances, only for Balwyn shot stopper Frano Saric to be the hero with a number of top class saves.
Pascoe Vale FC 5 (S. Soufi 2, E. Simsek, J. Da Silva, J. Portillo) drew with. FC Balwyn 5 (S. La Manda 2, M. Boban 2, T. Saric)

Metropolitan took the spoils 6-4 against a lack luster FC Prahran side. Alija Redzepovic turned back the clock with a vintage performance that saw him involved in all Metropolitan's goals. FC Prahran tried to make it a contest but fell short in the end, as they have started the campaign with two losses.
Metropolitan FC 6 (A. Redzepovic 2, A. Stevanovic 2, D. Redzepovic, H. Ikanovic) def. FC Prahran 4 (M. Avram, I. Zilic, S. Rahim, C. Mogoai)

New boys Fitzroy FC will walk away extremely disappointed after their 3-3 draw with Hume FC.



FC Prahran 's Diego Assaeda has his effort on goal saved by Pascoe Vale keeper Liam Digby.
Photo By Matt Montgomery



Pascoe Vale's new Japanese import Takuya Umeda celebrates his goal with teammate Sofiane Soufi. Photo By Matt Montgomery

Fitzroy jumped out the blocks to a 3 goal lead only to let it slip as Hume pulled two goals back. Hume drew level in controversial circumstances as Fitzroy had Adem Alicevic sent off and there was confusion with the time for the 5th player to re-enter the court and Hume drew level.
Hume FC 3 (M. Parlak, S. Rashidi, C. Yang) drew with. Fitzroy FC 3 (A. Alicevic, K. Majbouri, A. Azam)

Moreland FC continued their

bright start in the top flight recording their second victory, this time over Essendon FC. Moreland dominated the first half and a 5 goal haul from Burakhan Koca ensured Moreland would take the points.
Moreland FC 6 (B. Koca 5, T. Sumbul) def. FC Essendon 2 (J. Cassano, D. Trajceski)

Round 3 Review
Vic Vipers continued their fine form with a 9-3 victory over FC Essendon. The young Essendon

side is currently struggling so far this season and the Vipers took full advantage and produced some quality futsal to take the 3 points.
Vic Vipers FC 9 (Jon. Barrientos 2, F. De Moraes, A. Cooper, Jas. Barrientos 1, K. Barrientos, H. Tran, K. Mu, G. Lucena) def. FC Essendon 3 (J. Cassano 2, R. Naumoski)

Pascoe Vale proved why they are favorites for the title dismantling FC Prahran 14-1 in a game that saw just about everything. Pascoe Vale were in a league of their own as they produced some cracking futsal and poor Prahran were left chasing shadows in a match they will love to forget.
Pascoe Vale FC 14 (J. Da Silva 3, J. Portillo 3, E. Simsek 2, T. Umeda 2, S. Soufi 2, B. Polatti, A. Caro, M. Avram (OG)) def. FC Prahran 1 (M. Avram)

Hume FC got back in the winners circle with a 5-1 victory over the hot and cold Metropolitan FC. Hume never looked in danger and with Metropolitan missing inspirational keeper Damir Salcin their defence didn't look the same. Hume took full advantage and took the points.
Hume FC 5 (C. Yang, S. Cicek, S. Rashidi, V. Mazurskiy, F. Bozdogan) def. Metropolitan FC 1 (T. Grgic)



Gabriel Lucena of Vic Vipers celebrates his goal against FC Essendon.
Photo By Matt Montgomery

V-League Standings

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 Moreland FC	3	3	0	0	19	12	+7	9
2 Hume FC	3	2	1	0	24	4	+20	7
3 Pascoe Vale FC	3	2	1	0	27	10	+17	7
4 Vic Vipers FC	3	2	1	0	17	7	+10	7
5 Ashburton FC	3	2	1	0	13	5	+8	7
6 Metropolitan FC	3	2	0	1	22	14	+8	6
7 Fitzroy FC	3	1	1	1	11	10	+1	4
8 FC Balwyn	3	1	1	1	16	21	-5	4
9 CF Brunswick	3	0	0	3	9	19	-10	0
10 Brighton FC	3	0	0	3	5	17	-12	0
11 FC Prahran	3	0	0	3	7	25	-18	0
12 FC Essendon	3	0	0	3	5	31	-26	0

Round 3 Clashes Sunday November 18

- 2:00 FC Essendon 3 vs Vic Vipers FC 9
- 3:00 FC Prahran 1 vs Pascoe Vale FC 15
- 4:00 Hume FC 5 vs Metropolitan FC 1
- 5:00 Ashburton FC 6 vs CF Brunswick 2
- 6:00 Fitzroy FC 4 vs Moreland FC 5
- 7:00 FC Balwyn 6 vs Brighton FC 1

Round 4 Clashes Sunday November 25

- 2:00pm – FC Balwyn vs. Ashburton FC
- 3:00pm – CF Brunswick vs. FC Essendon
- 4:00pm – Brighton FC vs. FC Prahran
- 5:00pm – Pascoe Vale FC vs. Hume FC
- 6:00pm – Vic Vipers FC vs. Fitzroy FC
- 7:00pm – Moreland FC vs. Metropolitan FC

Top Goal Scorers

- Burukan Koca (Moreland FC) – 10 Goals
- Jose Portillo (Pascoe Vale FC) – 7 Goals
- Alija Redzepovic (Metropolitan FC) – 7 Goals
- Sofiane Soufi (FC Balwyn) – 6 Goals
- Turhan Sumbul (Pascoe Vale) – 5 Goals

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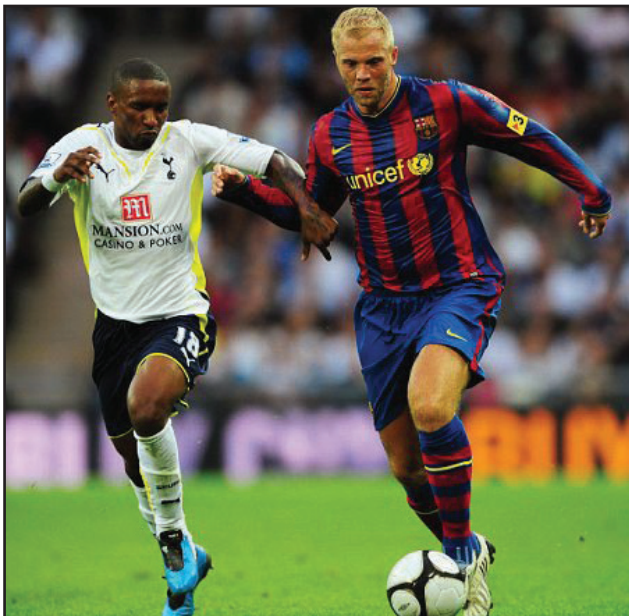


By Alvaro Rodriguez

NAME: Iceland
CAPITAL: Reykjavik
POPULATION: (2012 approx.) 320,060
CONFEDERATION: UEFA
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: N/A
FIFA WORLD RANKING: 96th
EURO APPEARANCES: N/A
WORLD CUP APPEARANCES: N/A

WHO ARE YA?

Iceland is a parliamentary republic situated in the North Atlantic/Arctic ocean. Its civilisation dates back to the 8th Century AD, when it was colonised by Vikings who gave the country its Norse-derived culture. Over the ensuing millennia it wrestled for independence from the Norwegian and Danish monarchies successively, before the proclamation of the Kingdom of Iceland in 1918 at the end of WWI, albeit as a dominion of Denmark. During World War II the island was used as a strategic base by the Allies who had liberated it early on from Nazi invasion, after which the monarchic



Eiður Guðjohnsen (right) back in his Barcelona days, evading Tottenham's Jermaine Defoe.

union with Denmark was severed and the present-day republic inaugurated in its place.

It is the most sparsely-populated country in Europe, and the only member nation of NATO without an army.

SO WHAT YOU DONE?

Apart from inflicting the odd upset, basically not very much at all. Prior to the '90s the country was regarded as one of the definite European minnows, only contesting Euro and World Cup qualifiers sporadically until the mid-1970s. Although it

has contested the qualifiers since the '80s, its international record was poor until the France '98 qualifiers when they put up some steely displays against Romania and the Republic of Ireland. Although the Icelanders have since carved out a niche for themselves as banana-skin opposition, the closest they have come to qualifying for an international tournament was Euro 2004 when they briefly topped their group and remained in play-off contention before Scotland cut them off at the pass. Since then their qualifying performances have



Just in case the GPS isn't working...

declined sharply, as evidenced by their bottom-placed finish in European Group 9 of World Cup 2010 qualifying with a mere 5 points to their name.

Despite this, the country has continued to export a steady stream of playing talent abroad.

BIG CLUBS

The national league is known as the Úrvalsdeild (currently the Pepsi-deild for sponsorship by the cola giant), and its major clubs are KR Reykjavik (25 national titles, 13 cups & two Super Cups), Valur (20 titles & 9 cups), IA and Fram with 18 titles each, and the current title-holders are FH, their win adding to their five national titles. Although the domestically-successful clubs like KR are regulars in European competition qualifiers, none has ever reached the group stages of the Champions League and Eu-

ropa League.

REP YOUR COLORS

The national team wears all-blue with white and red trims (the national flag's colours) although during the mid-'90s they also wore sky-blue with white shorts. The away is normally all-white with red and blue trims. As for the clubs, FH and KR both wear black and white (the former as white top with black shorts, the latter as stripes ala' Collingwood/Juve/Newcastle etc.); Valur wear a red top with white shorts; IA wear a yellow top with black shorts whilst Fram wear blue with white.

MATCHWINNERS

The father-son duo of Arnór and Eiður Guðjohnsen have their place in Icelandic football folklore as much for being the first father and son to play in an international match (a friendly against Estonia

on April 24th 1996) as for their individual careers. Arnór was one of the first Icelanders to enjoy a lengthy career abroad after starting out with local side Víkingur in 1978; from there he played in continental Europe for Lokeren & Anderlecht (Belgium), Bordeaux, Hacken & Örebro (Sweden) before returning home to see out his career with Stjarnan in 2001, having represented his country 73 times (+14 goals), as well as having played in the 1984 UEFA Cup final for Anderlecht against Tottenham.

Eiður began his career with Valur in 1994 before joining Dutch giants PSV in '95 - though there only briefly, he then went on to play for Bolton Wanderers, Fulham and AEK Athens although the high points of his CV are undoubtedly his 5-year stints each with Chelsea and Barcelona. Upon leaving Barça he played for Stoke City, Monaco, Tottenham and Fulham before signing with Belgium's Cercle Brugge this season. To date he has been capped 68 times and scored 24 goals for his country.

The current Icelandic squad features striker Kolbeinn Sigþórsson of Ajax Amsterdam, Björn Bergmann Sigurðarson of Wolverhampton Wanderers, Jóhann Berg Guðmundsson of AZ Alkmaar and Gylfi Sigurðsson of Tottenham.

SO WHAT NOW?

Having missed the boat for Euro 2012, the Icelanders' qualifying trek for Brazil 2014 is already looking tenuous, although a win against Slovenia in the next matchday should keep them in the hunt for the time being...

Juve Crush Chelsea, City Sent Packing

Group A: PSG, Porto cruise
Paris Saint-Germain booked their passage through to the last 16 of the Champions League after a routine 2-0 victory over Dynamo Kiev. Ezequiel Lavezzi, who had not previously scored for PSG, grabbed both of the goals for Carlo Ancelotti's men in the Group A clash in the Ukraine. Porto enjoyed almost total domination over Dinamo Zagreb at the Estadio do Dragao, running out as 3-0 winners after a convincing performance.

Despite some nervous moments for the home side, goals from Lucho Gonzalez, Joao Moutinho and Silvestre Varela wrapped up the victory for the Portuguese giants, who had already secured qualification from their group before kick-off.

Group B: Arsenal, Schalke advance
Jack Wilshere scored as Arsenal booked their place in the knockout stages of the Champions League with a 2-0 win over Montpellier.

Over a year of injury-ravaged frustration was etched on Wilshere's face as he celebrated poking Arsenal ahead in the 49th minute before Lukas Podolski sealed the win with a stunning volley on 63 minutes. Schalke's win over Olympiakos on Wednesday means Arsenal are guaranteed a place in the second round ahead of their final Group B fixture in Athens on December 5. Schalke defeated Olympiakos 1-0 at Veltins Arena, securing their passage to the last 16. A long-range Christian Fuchs strike was enough for the hosts, who now sit in first place in the group with one match to go.

Group C: Milan battle through
AC Milan advanced to the last 16 of the Champions League after labouring to a 3-1 win over Anderlecht. Anderlecht started the game impressively but were unable to make the most of their superior possession due to a lack of creativity.

They were punished early in the second half when Stephan El Shaarawy put the Serie A giants ahead at Constant Vanden Stock Stadium.

After Bram Nuytink was shown a red card, Philippe Mexes netted one of the goals of the competition so far to secure the points.

Tom De Sutter did pull one back for the Belgian outfit but Alexandre Pato restored the two-goal cushion in stoppage time. Zenit St Petersburg came from two goals down to seal a 2-2 draw at home to Malaga.

The visitors shocked the hosts to race into a two-goal lead inside nine minutes, with Diego Buonanotte and Sebastian Fernandez handing their side an early advantage.

A romping start to the second half from the hosts saw them grab a deserved lifeline courtesy of a Danny finish, and the St Petersburg side completed a deserved comeback late on when Viktor Fayzulin emphatically rifled home.

Group D: City sent packing
Manchester City staged another late recovery but were eliminated from the Champions League after a 1-1 draw against 10-man Real Madrid. A late Sergio Agüero penalty gave the scoreline some respectability for Roberto Mancini's team but a sober evening showed how far they have to go to compete on the highest club stage with a team of Real's calibre.

Jose Mourinho's side took an early grip of Wednesday's match through a 10th-minute Karim Benzema volley that they never looked like relinquishing until City threw caution to the wind late on. Alvaro Arbeloa was sent off after conceding a soft penalty when he clipped Agüero with 17 minutes left and the Argentine stepped up to level the scores.

But it was not enough to stop City exiting the competition with one match to play, as Real joined Group D leaders Borussia Dortmund in the knockout stages. In Amsterdam, Borussia Dortmund recorded a 4-1 win over Ajax in the other Group D fixture.

The visitors needed only eight minutes to open the scoring via Marco Reus, before Mario Goetzke doubled their lead with a fine finish.

A somewhat fortunate Robert Lewandowski strike then put the match to bed shortly before the interval, and the Polish striker made it four after the break.

Substitute Danny Hoesen pegged one back for the hosts in the closing stages.

Group E: Juve crush Chelsea
Chelsea's defence of their Champions League crown was left in tatters as Juventus put the Blues to the sword in a convincing 3-0 win.

Fabio Quagliarella opened the scoring for the hosts in Turin on Tuesday, before Arturo Vidal and Sebastian Giovinco rounded off

the victory.

Chelsea continued to chase the game but it was the hosts who looked more dangerous, with Juve sealing the points when substitute Giovinco prodded past Cech.

The result saw Juve leapfrog Roberto Di Matteo's side into second in the group standings, which are lead by Ukrainian champions Shakhtar Donetsk, who won 5-2 at Nordsjælland.

Luiz Adriano struck a hat-trick and Willian added a brace for the victors, who trailed on two occasions after Morten Nordstrand and Kasper Lorentzen had given the Danes the lead.

Shakhtar top the standings on 10 points with one match remaining, while Juventus are a point back in second and third-placed Chelsea on seven points.

Nordsjælland sit in last on one

UEFA Champions League - Match Day 5																	
Group A									Group E								
P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Porto	5	4	1	0	9	2	+7	13	1 Shakhtar	5	3	1	1	12	7	+5	10
2 PSG	5	4	0	1	12	2	+10	12	2 Juventus	5	2	3	0	11	4	+7	9
3 Dyn Kyiv	5	1	1	3	5	9	-4	4	3 Chelsea	5	2	1	2	10	9	+1	7
4 Zagreb	5	0	0	5	0	13	-13	0	4 Nordsjæl	5	0	1	4	3	16	-13	1
Porto 3 - 0 Dinamo Zagreb									Nordsjælland 2 - 5 Shakhtar Donetsk								
Dynamo Kyiv 0 - 2 PSG									Juventus 3 - 0 Chelsea								
Group B									Group F								
P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Schalke	5	3	2	0	9	5	+4	11	1 München	5	3	1	1	11	6	+5	10
2 Arsenal	5	3	1	1	9	6	+3	10	2 Valencia	5	3	1	1	11	5	+6	10
3 Olympia	5	2	0	3	7	8	-1	6	3 BATE	5	2	0	3	8	11	-3	6
4 Montpell	5	0	1	4	5	11	-6	1	4 Lille	5	1	0	4	4	12	-8	3
Arsenal 2 - 0 Montpellier									BATE 0 - 2 Lille								
Schalke 04 1 - 0 Olympiakos Piraeus									Valencia 1 - 1 Bayern München								
Group C									Group G								
P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Málaga	5	3	2	0	10	3	+7	11	1 Barcelona	5	4	0	1	11	5	+6	12
2 Milan	5	2	2	1	7	5	+2	8	2 Benfica	5	2	1	2	5	5	+0	7
3 Zenit	5	1	1	3	5	9	-4	4	3 Celtic	5	2	1	2	7	7	+0	7
4 Anderlecht	5	1	1	3	2	7	-5	4	4 Spartak	5	1	0	4	6	12	-6	3
Zenit 2 - 2 Málaga									Spartak Moskva 0 - 3 Barcelona								
Anderlecht 1 - 3 Milan									Benfica 2 - 1 Celtic								
Group D									Group H								
P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Dortmund	5	3	2	0	10	5	+5	11	1 Man Utd	5	4	0	1	9	5	+4	12
2 R Madrid	5	2	2	1	11	8	+3	8	2 Galatasa	5	2	1	2	5	5	+0	7
3 Ajax	5	1	1	3	7	12	-5	4	3 CFR Cluj	5	2	1	2	8	7	+1	7
4 Man City	5	0	3	2	7	10	-3	3	4 S Braga	5	1	0	4	6	11	-5	3
Ajax 1 - 4 Borussia Dortmund									Galatasaray 1 - 0 Manchester United								
Manchester City 1 - 1 Real Madrid									CFR Cluj 3 - 1 Sporting Braga								

point.

Group F: Bayern deny Valencia
Valencia narrowly missed out on moving to the top of Champions League Group F with a hard-fought 1-1 draw Bayern Munich at the Mestalla.

Mauricio Pellegrino's Valencia already had their place in the next round assured before the game but Bayern also booked their place in the draw for the last 16 with a late equaliser from Thomas Mueller, which cancelled out Sofiane Feghoul's opener.

In the group's other match, Lille notched their first points of the campaign with a 2-0 win at BATE Borisov.

Maiden Champions League goals for Djibril Sidibe and Gianni Bruno saw the French side avenge their opening-round defeat to the Belarusians, keeping Rudi Garcia's men in the hunt for Europa League qualification.

Group G: Barca take top honours
Barcelona qualified for the Champions League Round of 16 with a comfortable 3-0 victory over Spartak Moscow. Brazilian defender Dani Alves opened the scoring at the Luzhniki Stadium in the 16th minute with a well-taken half-volley as the visitors asserted their authority early on.

Argentine superstar Lionel Messi netted the first of his two goals of the match 11 minutes later, showing predatory instincts to pounce on a rebound inside the penalty area. Messi finished off a quintessential Barca passing move to complete his brace at the end of the first half, with only the heroics of Spartak goalkeeper Andriy Dykan preventing Tito Vilanova's side from adding to the scoreline after the interval.

The loss spelled the end of Spartak's Champions League campaign, while Barca move to an unassailable 12 points in Group G. In the group's other match, Benfica recorded a 2-1 home win over Celtic. Jorge Jesus' Benfica took the lead

against the Scottish champions in the seventh minute through Ola John, with Oscar Cardozo getting the assist.



Latin Wrap

By Francis Fields

Chilean national coach Claudio Borghi was sacked last Thursday following his side's 3-1 defeat to Serbia in an international friendly.

The 48-year-old Argentinian - who replaced compatriot Marcelo Bielsa in February last year - paid the price for a slump in form that has seen Chile lose three successive 2014 World Cup qualifiers and slump to sixth in the standings.

"The record isn't good after the last four matches we have played and a few minutes ago I met a couple of the federation's directors who asked me to step down," said Borghi. Despite their loss of form Chile only trail fourth and fifth placed Venezuela and Uruguay by virtue of a worse goal difference with seven matches remaining. The first four earn an automatic place at the finals in Brazil while the fifth placed team go into a play-off.

Borghi's sacking caused mayhem as the technical director and youth national team coaches also presented their resignation with Fernando Carvallo leaving with just two months before CONMEBOL's South American under-20 World Cup qualifiers to be held in San Juan and Mendoza in Argentina. The top four qualify for the World Cup next year in Turkey.

The offices of the Chilean FA are in negotiations with Copa Sudamericana champions Universidad de Chile to lure Argentine-born coach Jorge Sampaoli who critics say is the top candidate for the job. His attacking-style of football is viewed as a perfect fit for the national team to continue the previous tenure under Bielsa.

Other candidates are Saudi Arabia coach and former FC Barcelona boss Frank Rijkaard meanwhile Newell's Old Boys and former Paraguay coach Gerardo Martino has been ruled out as the Rosario club extended his contract deal.

PALMEIRAS SHOCK IN BRAZIL

Palmeiras have been relegated in the Brazilian league for the second time in 10 years after conceding a late equaliser in a 1-1 draw with Flamengo. Champions Fluminense, meanwhile, celebrated the title they clinched a week ago, receiving the league trophy in front of their home fans in Rio de Janeiro despite a 2-0 loss to Cruzeiro at Engenhao stadium.

The newly crowned Brazilian Serie A champions conceded goals from Walter Montillo and Elber wrapped up the win for the visitors against a side that secured the title last week. Despite having nothing to play for, Fluminense were looking to treat their home fans with another win.

But things did not go to plan in the early stages as Cruzeiro were awarded a penalty on 24 minutes after Fluminense defender Gum pulled down Anselmo Ramon.

Play Offs, Sackings And Relegation In The One Week



Gustavo Kuerten and Novak Djokovic spotted having a kick in Rio.

Argentine midfielder Montillo stepped up and sent Diego Cavalieri the wrong way to give Cruzeiro the lead. And two minutes after the break things got worse for Fluminense. A fine flowing counter-attack from the visitors saw Ramon play in Elber just outside the box, the striker beating two defenders with some fine footwork before firing past Cavalieri to secure the win.

Gremio rallied from two goals down to earn a 2-2 draw at relegation-threatened Portuguesa. After a scoreless first half, Moises and Leo Silva scored in the space of eight minutes to open a 2-0 lead for Portuguesa. However, two quick-fire goals from Andre Lima and Ze Roberto ensured the spoils were shared. Vanderlei Luxemburgo's men stay one point clear in second following Atletico Mineiro's 2-2 draw with Atletico Goianiense.

Palmeiras, the team with the most national titles and the defending Brazilian Cup champion, were relegated to the second division after Portuguesa drew with Gremio and after the draw with Flamengo, Palmeiras needed Portuguesa to lose the match at Caninde Stadium.

Victory eluded Palmeiras in Volta Redonda after former player Wagner Love scored in the 89th minute with a shot that deflected off a defender before going into the net on the weekend. The eight-time Brazilian champion were demoted for the first time in 2002.

With two rounds left, Palmeiras are seven points behind Portuguesa, the first team out of relegation zone.

Palmeiras striker Hernán Barcos is currently back in Argentina preparing for Thursday night's second leg of the Superclasico de las Americas tie against Brazil in Buenos Aires, but he told reporters that he wanted to apologise to the fans of the São Paulo club for the relegation to Serie B, which

was confirmed on Sunday.

Barcos said: "I wanted to apologise for everything that has happened. But Palmeiras, before long, will come back. It was a year where everything happened. Some of the best things in my life and also some of the worst."

2012 will be remembered by Palmeiras fans for a number of reasons. The first half of the year saw the club triumph in the Copa do Brasil, a victory which puts them in the Copa Libertadores for next season. However, after a poor start to the Brasileirão, they sacked head coach Luiz Felipe Scolari and, despite a late flurry, could not turn their form around and were eventually relegated.

The striker has had a great season on a personal level, scoring 28 goals in 54 games, and has become an idol with the Palmeiras fans. However, he is yet to decide on his future for next season and, as he links up with the Argentina side, is trying to forget the troubles in Brazil.

They are 18th in the 20-team standings with 34 points from 36 matches. The bottom four clubs are relegated. Portuguesa, Bahia and Sport remain in danger, while Figueirense and last-place Atletico Goianiense had already been demoted.

Before the Fluminense loss to Cruzeiro, world No.1 tennis player Novak Djokovic and former three-time French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten both scored in a charity football match at the stadium.

The exhibition was organised by Djokovic's Serbian countryman Dejan Petkovic, who starred for several Brazilian clubs in the past decade. Former Brazil stars Zico and Bebeto were among the participants.

Also on Sunday, playmaker Paulo Henrique Ganso came off the bench to make his debut with fourth-placed Sao Paulo in the team's 2-1 win over Nautico. Goal-

keeper Rogerio Ceni scored Sao Paulo's winner by converting a second-half penalty kick.

Peru striker Paolo Guerrero scored one of the goals for defending champions Corinthians in their 2-0 win over Internacional. Fifth in the standings, Corinthians are focused on the Club World Cup in December.

ARGENTINA HOTS UP

Lanus scored after 25 seconds and deep in second half added time to rack up their seventh straight win with a 2-0 defeat of Belgrano in Cordoba to go top of the Argentine league championship on Monday.

Lanus, a modest club from the southern suburbs of the capital, went ahead in their first attack with midfielder Guido Pizarro volleying home Uruguayan Mario Regueiro's cross from the left less than half a minute after kickoff.

Substitute Diego Gonzalez raced past two challenges and beat goalkeeper Juan Carlos Olave from close range four minutes into added time to secure the points. The side trained by former Boca Juniors and Columbus Crew forward Guillermo Barros Schelotto, in his debut season as a coach, joined Velez Sarsfield on 32 points from 16 matches.

Velez and Newell's Old Boys, three points further back, both lost on Sunday.

Boca Juniors won 1-0 at Velez for only their second victory in nine matches to climb into fourth place five points behind the leaders.

Lanus beat Tigre 4-1 eight days ago and San Martin 2-1 in mid-week, both at home, as part of their seven-match streak.

"We played an almost perfect match and we took nine points in the week," Lanus goal scorer Pizarro told a Futbol Para Todos reporter on the pitch.

Barros Schelotto, nicknamed Mellizo (twin) with his brother Gustavo as his assistant coach, is



Stadium security finally up and running in Chilean football.

an idol at Boca and his success at Lanus has caught the eye of directors at his former club looking to offload unpopular coach Julio Cesar Falcioni.

CHIVAS ELIMINATED IN MEXICO

Toluca were hoping to keep their chances of a first Liga MX Apertura title since 2009 alive with victory over Guadalajara in their quarter-final second leg. Heading into the match with a 2-1 advantage, the regular season leaders had to wait until the second half to move further ahead.

Sinha's quickly taken free kick caught the Guadalajara defence napping and Wilson Matias made no mistake with a simple tap in. Toluca smelt blood and duly doubled the lead just two minutes later.

Again poor defending from John van 't Schip's side left Luca Silva in acres of space to head home. Juan Cacho then made the tie safe on 71 minutes. Guadalajara grabbed a late consolation through Erick Torres but Toluca progress to the last four with a 5-2 aggregate victory.

Monterrey finished a lowly seventh in the regular Apertura season and needed to turn around a one goal deficit from their quarter-final first leg with Tijuana. And the reigning CONCACAF champions were dealt a further blow when Pablo Aguilar broke the deadlock at the Estadio Caliente. Monterrey grabbed a 93rd minute equaliser but they bow out 2-1 on aggregate.

Elsewhere, America's 2-0 first leg lead looked enough to ensure they reached the last four at the expense of Morelia. Just two minutes in the visitors were ahead when Joao Rojas capitalised on poor defending from Aquivaldo Mosquera. When Raul Jimenez gave the hosts a 3-1 aggregate lead later in the half, Mosquera's blushes looked to have been spared.

Miguel Sabah hit back to put the visitors ahead on the day but a scoreless second period means America qualify 3-2 on aggregate. It won't get any easier for America as they face Toluca in the last four. Tijuana will battle it out with Leon who defeated Cruz Azul in the other quarter-final.

MLS CUP LATEST

The Houston Dynamo are headed back to the MLS Cup, where they'll battle either the Los Angeles Galaxy or the Seattle Sounders for the Major League Soccer title. Houston played DC United to a 1-1 draw at RFK Stadium on Sunday in the return leg of the Eastern Conference final, advancing to a second straight MLS Cup championship match 4-2 on aggregate.

The Dynamo won the first leg 3-1 in Houston to put themselves on the path to the December 1 title showdown. Houston advanced to their fourth MLS Cup title match in seven years. They won in 2006 and 2007 and lost last season to the Galaxy.

The Galaxy were in a commanding position going into Sunday night's Western Conference final second-leg match in Seattle, having won the opening leg 3-0 in Los Angeles last weekend.

In Washington, Houston's Boniek Garcia opened the scoring in the 33rd minute, slotting the ball past DC United goalkeeper Bill Hamid from close range after a pass from Brad Davis. Facing a three-goal aggregate deficit, United managed just one late goal from Branko Boskovic.

In a last-ditch bid, United brought Dwayne De Rosario back as a substitute in the 62nd minute, but the 2011 Most Valuable Player was unable to conjure any magic in his first appearance since a knee injury suffered in an appearance for Canada in September.



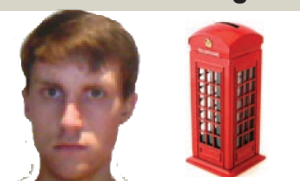
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London Calling



By Samuel Collins

The talk once referee Oddvar Moen blew the whistle in Stockholm last week was inevitable. Zlatan Ibrahimovic's stunning strike had caught the attention of the world. The Swedish superstar had already netted a hat-trick, but then, England would feel the full force of 'Ibra'. "It was like watching a video game," Sweden coach Erik Hamren remarked. "It's probably the best goal I've seen live," Steven Gerrard admitted. It really was unprecedented.

The Scandinavians were 3-2 up against England with seconds left, before Joe Hart's careless clearance fell straight to the right foot of Ibrahimovic. And what the PSG forward did from there was breathtaking. An overhead kick, first time, over 'keeper Hart and his astonished defenders. Wow. Pandemonium erupted in the Friends Arena. 50,000 packed inside a stadium enjoying it's opening night didn't know whether to clap, quickly grab their cameras so they could record the replay on the big screen or just contemplate some form of logic for what had just happened. Some probably did all three. It was very much the 31-year old's evening.

However, Roy Hodgson's team included several debutants who offered an insight into what could be in the future. Of the six who made their England debuts against Sweden, promisingly, four were 21-years old or younger. Raheem Sterling excelled. The Liverpool winger pro-

Young Lions offer England hope



Debutant Leon Osman may well get a chance to shine when England take on Brazil in February.

pelled his exciting club form onto the bigger stage. There were, understandably, moments of naivety and inexperience from the 17-year old, but his dribbling ability and involvement in the second goal - expertly picking out fellow wide-man Ashley Young, who in turn crossed for another youngster Danny Welbeck to fire home - had Three Lion supporters talking. And while Carl Jenkinson and Wilfried Zaha, both 20, had little time to impress late on, both are in fine form for their clubs Arsenal and Crystal Palace, particularly the latter. Zaha, described by his coach Ian Holloway as "unique", is currently the best player in England's second tier. Reports insist Arsenal are set to test Palace's resolve with bids of around £10m in January. Watch this space.

Another earning a first cap was Tottenham centre-half Steven Caulker, who has enjoyed a fine 18-month spell. A season on loan at Swansea provided the 21-year old with the experience of Premier League foot-

ball, and now the Londoner is playing regularly for Spurs. Caulker's opener against Sweden showed the towering defender is handy in the opposition box too, especially as he followed up his debut strike for his country with a similar goal for his club last weekend at Manchester City. Leon Osman was the pick of the new boys, though. A first cap that many felt came far too late. The 31-year old has delighted the Everton faithful season after season, and the diminutive midfielder's performance last week only frustrated those who argued in favour of a call-up years back.

Elsewhere, the future already appears attractive. In Jack Wilshere, England have a midfielder with the world at his feet. The Arsenal no.10 has only just returned from almost two years out with injury, but the playmaker is seen as the savior of the nation hoping to head into the 2014 World Cup. Manchester United's Tom Cleverley, three years older than the 20-year old Wilshere,

is seen as his midfield partner in the coming years. Already tasked with filling the boots of Red Devils legend Paul Scholes, the former Wigan loanee now has 53 million in England awaiting big things from him.

But it's not just Sterling, Welbeck, Jenkinson, Zaha, Caulker, Wilshere and Cleverley. There's Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain of Arsenal. There's Phil Jones and Chris Smalling, both of United. And then there's Jack Rodwell of City and Jonjo Shelvey of Liverpool. This intriguing flock of undoubted potential offers hope to a nation still seeking it's first silverware since 1966. The experienced faces are still present - Gerrard, Michael Carrick, Wayne Rooney, Ashley Cole et al - and then aren't many with more games under their belt in the game than Hodgson.

With 19 months still remaining before football's biggest tournament kicks-off in Brazil, time is on the younger player's sides. But of course, England have to qualify first. The country, somewhat inexplicably sitting sixth in FIFA's current world rankings, sit second in group H of the qualification stages, two points behind Montenegro. Next up, in March, England travel to minnows San Marino and then face the group leaders in what could be a decisive game.

Hodgson has pleaded with the fans to look not only at his results - the 65-year old has lost just once in competitive action, against Italy at Euro 2012, since replacing Fabio Capello - but also at the platform he is building, pinpointing the emphasis on youth. "Look at the young players coming through," the ex-Fulham and Liverpool coach said recently, "We're going to see a vast improvement in the next ten years."

Here's hoping.

Chelsea sack Di Matteo

Chelsea have sacked Roberto Di Matteo following their 3-0 defeat to Juventus in the Champions League on Tuesday. The Blues needed a positive result in Turin to maintain strong hopes of defending their European crown, but Antonio Conte's side destroyed the Premier League club to leave their chances in ruins.

And with their Premier League form slipping after a bright start, owner Roman Abramovich has decided to sack the manager, with the club revealing: "Results have not been good enough."

A statement on Chelsea's official website read: "Chelsea Football Club has parted company this morning with manager Roberto Di Matteo."

"The team's recent performances and results have not been good enough and the owner and the board felt that a change was necessary now to keep the club moving in the right direction as we head into a vitally important part of the season."

The club face a season-defining period over the coming weeks, with a clash against Premier League champions Manchester City on November 25 followed by a must-win Champions League game against Nordsjaelland on December 5.

The statement continued: "The club faces a difficult task ahead in qualifying for the knockout stages of the UEFA Champions League as well as maintaining a strong challenge for the top of the Premier League while competing in three other cup competitions. Our aim is to remain as competitive as possible and challenge strongly on all fronts."



Despite winning the Champions League and FA Cup after taking over from Andre Villas-Boas in March of the 2011-12 season, Di Matteo is the latest in a long list of managers who have failed to appease owner Abramovich.

After winning seven of his eight opening Premier League games this season, two points from the last four league matches and seven points from a possible 15 in the Champions League have sealed the Italian's fate.

The statement continued: "The owner and the board would like to thank Roberto for all he has done for the club since taking over in March. Roberto helped guide us to an historic Champions League victory and a seventh FA Cup. We will never forget the huge contribution he has made to this club's history and he will always be welcome at Stamford Bridge."

"The club will be making an announcement shortly regarding a new first team manager."



By Alex Milic

Former European Champions Red Star Belgrade has cut the deficit at the top of the league standings to five points following a thrilling 3:2 win against eternal rivals Partizan in the 143rd 'Veciti Derbi'.

Partizan are chasing a record sixth successive league title, they are on top of the standings with 33 points from 13 games while Red Star - who won Europe's premier club competition in 1991 - have 28 after a resilient performance which rekindled memories of former glories.

In front of over 45,000 fans, there was an electric atmosphere at the 'Marakana' with Red Star fans totally outnumbering their opponents. The home and away fans were on their feet through the 90mins singing and chanting.

The spectacular sight paved the way for an explosive start as Partizan's teenage striker Aleksandar Mitrovic fired the visitors into the lead after nine minutes, burying his shot under Montenegrin keeper Boban Bajkovic after muscling his way past central defender Uros Spajic.

Roared on by their faithful, Red



Sp-Zvezda

Star came surging forward and equalised five minutes later when Montenegro striker Filip Kasalica met Darko Lazovic's perfect cross from the right and side-footed his volley past Nikola Petrovic. This was Kasalica's second goal in his fourth Eternal Derby.

But Red Star's joy was short-lived as Serbia forward Lazar Markovic burst down the left and sent in a teasing low cross which central defender and Montenegrin International Milan Jovanovic turned into the roof of his own net.

The quick and crafty Markovic almost added a third for Parti-

zan before the break, firing wide from a tight angle after weaving his way past two markers who were unable to cope with his pace.

Red Star were back on level terms shortly after halftime thanks to a superb goal by midfielder Luka Milivojevic, whose dinking shot with the tip of his boot from 20 metres gave Petrovic no chance as it sailed over the keeper and left him clutching air.

Lazovic then fired over the bar from close range and only some desperate defending kept Partizan afloat moments later after Petrovic was caught out of posi-

tion and his team mates scrambled the ball away.

But there was no rescue for the visitors in the 74th minute when former Wolverhampton Wanderers midfielder Nenad Milijas sent a stooping header into the far corner after livewire Kasalica delivered a well weighed cross from the right.

Partizan missed their final chance to snatch a point when substitute Nikola Ninkovic shot high and wide after Red Star failed to clear their lines.

Aleksandar Jankovic, manager, Red Star said after the match, "We had only ourselves to blame for losing ground on Partisan and our self-confidence in the run-up to the derby, but following a poor first half the lads showed character and Milivojevic's goal got us back on the rails."

Jankovic says, "They played their hearts out and we are delighted our fans finally have something to cheer about after we beat a tough and more experienced team to haul ourselves back into the title race."

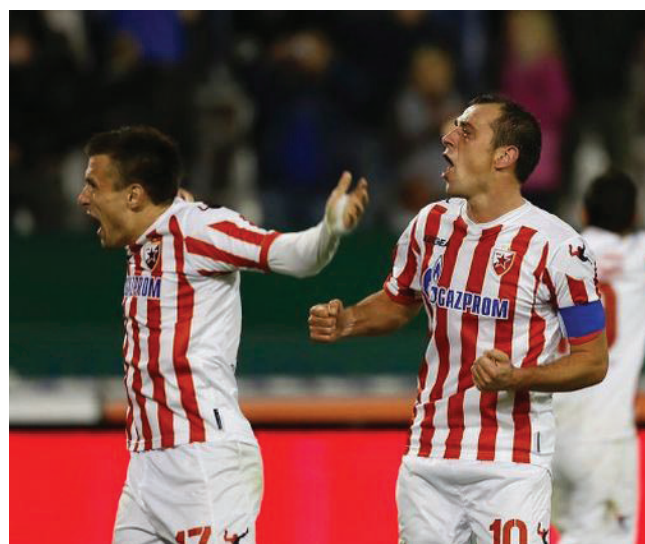
"But we can afford no more slip-ups."

Jankovic's counterpart Vladimir Vermezovic was obviously disappointed, since his side lead twice.

Vermezovic says, "The lead we built through some hard work came crumbling down in the second half and we have to look at why we fizzed out after the break," he said.



Fireworks at the Markana



Milijas celebrates his winning goal.

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LIVE THE DREAM



EPL
Wrap

By Andrew Bishara

Adebayor ruins Derby Delight

It's understandable that during a derby, things can get heated. Legs fly high, studs up, chest pumping and heated arguments. There is also an expectation of yellow cards and even red cards.

Despite this, there should be constraint in players. Yes – when games get heated, it can very nasty. But twenty minutes into a derby, with your team one goal up, with the game, not yet living up to the hype, you catapult yourself, studs up and smashing into your opponents legs and then receive a straight red, it would be folly not to think that the action was down right stupid.

Emmanuel Adebayor has always been a hated figure for Arsenal fans. Wearing the white colours of rivals Tottenham would not have helped matters, especially when he lunged himself against new-fan favourite Santi Cazorla earning him that straight red.

The decision proved to be decisive; Tottenham were up by a goal – thanks to Adebayor – and were the dominant team for the opening twenty minutes of the North London derby. At halftime, Arsenal was already 3-1 up and finished the 5-2 winners, piling on more pressure in the second half.

Adebayor has since apologised for his actions, pleading to the public and critics that his actions were in



It's high fives for Arsenal after smashing Spurs 5-2.

no way malicious.

“I completely understand my sending off changed the entire outcome of the game and I wholeheartedly apologise to my teammates, the manager and all the Tottenham fans for letting them down,” he told the Sun.

“But I must stress that my challenge was not malicious in any way whatsoever. Nobody could have felt more devastated than me as I walked off the pitch. I so much wanted to help Tottenham win and thought for a moment that I'd actually set that win up when I scored, but football changes so quickly. One minute a hero, the next a villain.”

If Adebayor had kept his cool, played his usual game with gusto, he could of lead Spurs to a famous victory at the Emirates. Instead, it was another missed opportunity of his side to make the step up in a big game.

Spurs manager, Andre Villas-Boas was quick to defend his striker, who has fallen down the pecking order this season. The Arsenal game was only his second start this season.

“The red card did not change the

running of the game,” said Villas-Boas. “We understand that it could have been any other player on any other day. This is football. Challenges like this happen. I don't think he was too wound up. We make the most out of players' motivations.

“Ade was in full control of his emotions and in a north-London derby, you want players to be strong and brave. Ade did not go in to harm Cazorla. Cazorla is quick; he reacted and took the ball away before Ade's feet met his foot”


The result its Tottenham's third consecutive loss in the Premier League; following such a bright start, including defeating Manchester United at Old Trafford. Since then, they've lost to Wigan, Manchester City and now Arsenal.

This week, they welcome West Ham to White Hart Lane in a must win clash. After a series of poor games, they will need to step it up a gear and finally get a valuable three points on the board.

EPL Preview
It's first versus third this weekend, as Manchester City travel to Stamford Bridge to face off

ENGLAND

EPL



Last 5 games

Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Manchester City	12	8	4	0	25	10	+15	28	WWDWW
2 Manchester United	12	9	0	3	29	17	+12	27	LWWWWW
3 Chelsea	12	7	3	2	24	13	+11	24	LDDLW
4 West Bromwich ...	12	7	2	3	19	13	+6	23	WWWLL
5 Everton	12	5	5	2	22	16	+6	20	LWDDD
6 Arsenal	12	5	4	3	23	13	+10	19	WDLWL
7 West Ham United	12	5	4	3	15	12	+3	19	DWDLW
8 Tottenham Hotspur	12	5	2	5	20	21	-1	17	LLLLL
9 Fulham	12	4	4	4	25	22	+3	16	LDLDD
10 Swansea City	12	4	4	4	18	16	+2	16	WDDLW
11 Liverpool	12	3	6	3	17	16	+1	15	WDDWW
12 Newcastle United	12	3	5	4	13	17	-4	14	LLDWD
13 Norwich City	12	3	5	4	9	18	-9	14	WDWDW
14 Stoke City	12	2	7	3	10	11	-1	13	DWLDD
15 Sunderland	11	2	6	3	10	12	-2	12	WLDDD
16 Wigan Athletic	12	3	2	7	12	21	-9	11	LLWWL
17 Reading	11	1	6	4	14	19	-5	9	WDDDL
18 Aston Villa	12	2	3	7	10	22	-12	9	LLWDL
19 Southampton	12	2	2	8	18	30	-12	8	WDLLL
20 QPR	12	0	4	8	9	23	-14	4	LLDLL

against title contenders Chelsea. It's the battle of the mega-rich clubs and it promises to be an enthralling clash, as both teams, funded by escalated wealth, are coming off very different results from last weekend.

Chelsea now has gone four games without a victory in the Premier League, following that controversial defeat to Manchester United. Since then, they've drawn to Swansea and Liverpool, before losing 2-1 to West Bromwich. The issues seem to be a lack of killer instinct up front; most notably the poor form of Fernando Torres and the lack of defensive cover.

Manager Roberto Di Matteo admitted, “As a team, we have to be better at defending. It's not an individual thing. We need to look at the defensive organisation of everyone on the pitch”

“The set-up of the team...we may have to sacrifice attacking options and go a bit more defensive” he said, following the 2-1 loss to West Brom.

The pressure is mounting on Chelsea after their rough patch, with reports saying that there was a “heated dressing room row” af

ter the West Brom game.

The mood would not have improved after their stunning 3-0 loss to Juventus in the Champions League. Chelsea now faces the prospect of becoming the European champion, not to progress to the Round of 16. The fallout could be catastrophic, with continuing rumours of Di Matteo's tenure being cut short (*and since confirmed after going to press. Ed.*) and the immense shadow of former Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola looming over Stamford Bridge.

Expect Di Matteo to ring the changes in squad for this week's game. They have been too many underperforming players and the poor form of Fernando Torres has really caught the eye of critics – so much so, that he was dropped for the Juventus clash – only to come in as substitute to rescue the game. Given his current form, it was a bit much to ask of him.

Manchester City also faces the pressure of European football this week, when they host Spanish Champions Real Madrid. In the same vein as Chelsea, City is in a must-win scenario. With only two points from their first four Champions League games, it's been a

Latest Results	This Week
Arsenal 5 - 2 Tottenham	Sunderland v WBA
Liverpool 3 - 0 Wigan Athletic	Everton v Norwich City
Man City 5 - 0 Aston Villa	Man Utd v QPR
Newcastle U 1 - 2 Swansea	Stoke City v Fulham
QPR 1 - 3 Southampton	Wigan Athletic v Reading
Reading 2 - 1 Everton	Aston Villa v Arsenal
WBA 2 - 1 Chelsea	Swansea City v Liverpool
Norwich City 1 - 0 Man Utd	Southampton v Newcastle U
Fulham 1 - 3 Sunderland	Chelsea v Man City
West Ham 1 - 1 Stoke City	Tottenham v West Ham

One To Watch This Weekend...
Brendan Rodgers marks his return to Wales with his re-born Liverpool side. They come against Rodgers' old boys, Swansea, now lead by Danish great, Michael Laudrup. With both teams insistence on playing one-touch slick, fast game, this should be an exciting encounter.

London Eye



By Eddie Gray

The Chelsea fans didn't want him and now it appears the Tottenham Hotspur faithful are losing patience with André Villas Boas a mere 12 games into his debut season in North London.

Once again, Villas Boas has had to take over from a manager who was a fan favourite, whilst also inheriting a team that has sustained a period of success in recent years. Replacing the experienced and popular Carlo Ancelotti appeared too tough a job for the Portuguese tactician, yet sometimes, you accept in football that some managers and teams just don't click, for whatever reason that may be. Villas Boas though, even after his sacking, was still to be considered to be one of the best young coaches in Europe, leading to him taking the reigns at Spurs.

The short move to North London was always going to be another tough challenge for the 35-year-old. Replacing not only a popular figure at White Hart Lane, but a popular figure across England. Harry Redknapp had built an attacking side worthy of challenging in the top four of the league and with two very contrasting styles of management having to cross over,

time is all that Villas Boas needs to implement his ideas.

The loss of Luka Modric and Rafael Van Der Vaart are obvious changes which the former Porto boss has had to deal with in his first season in charge. Two vital players for Spurs who have played key parts in their recent success have needed to be replaced. Although we are less than a half way through the 2012-2013 Premier League season, the jury is still out there on whether the new signings are up to the same standard of Modric and Van Der Vaart.

Moussa Dembélé has looked to be a shrewd purchase and began his Tottenham career with a well taken goal on his debut against Norwich City. Unfortunately, injuries have hampered his campaign, with the Belgian only making four appearances so far this season. The former Fulham man has certainly shown enough in his performances though to prove that he can be a success. Filling the gap that Van Der Vaart left, the 25-year-old constantly looks to get on the ball and can produce a moment of magic from out of nowhere.

Dembélé's fellow countryman and new recruit Jan Vertonghen has also made just as big an impact. Filling in at left-back for the injured Benoit Assou-Ekotto as well as playing at centre-back, the summer signing from Ajax has slotted in well, utilising his pace and ability on the ball to accustom himself to English football.

It's the whole host of other new signings that will worry Villas Boas though, with big money purchases unable to make their mark

Déjà Vu For AVB?



AVB says he's putting a team together to challenge for the title. But will he be given the time?

on the pitch.

Gylfi Sigurdsson has become a forgotten man after making such an impact at Swansea City the previous season, whilst Clint Dempsey has been a shadow of himself after setting such high standards at Fulham. It's possible that at 29, Dempsey may struggle to fit into a technical Villas Boas' side, looking like a square peg in a round hole more often than not.

At either end of the pitch, Jermain Defoe has been in his usual goal scoring form when given a run of games in any side, leaving Emmanuel Adebayor to sit on the bench. The striker's transfer from

Manchester City had been made permanent in the summer, but Defoe's form has rightfully given him his place amongst the Spurs substitutes.

The same applies for Brad Friedel in the Tottenham goal as the veteran continues to be a medical marvel, deservedly keeping out the outstanding French captain Hugo Lloris and producing the kind of performances football fans have come to expect of the 41-year-old.

Both Lloris and Adebayor were given a starting place in Saturday's 5-2 loss to Arsenal and before the latter's sending off, it was Villas Boas' side that was in control and

1-0 up.

Tottenham's displays have in recent weeks produced little in the way of points, with only one win from five against lowly Southampton. Those fixtures have included trips to Arsenal and Manchester City and a home fixture against Chelsea, whilst a shock loss at Wigan has done little to silence his doubters.

Of all the criticism though, his side currently sit eighth in the table without having played exceptionally well yet, which many will say is the sign of a good side. Only a brilliant 3-2 away victory at

Manchester United has produced an excellent, flowing performance which you would come to expect from a Villas Boas side. Even a 3-1 demolition of Reading failed to produce a scintillating performance, as players appear to try and work themselves in with the new managers tactics.

Whilst there are similarities in Villas Boas' short reign at Chelsea and current appointment at Spurs, you feel he may be given much more time and support from the board this time round.

The fans at White Hart Lane may be demanding a top four finish this season, but coping with the loss of key players whilst implementing a vastly different style of football to that of his predecessor does take time. It will be difficult to see Tottenham make the Champions League next year.

Chairman Daniel Levy will understand that instant success will be a high order this term, with many reports suggesting he rid of Redknapp for a younger manager with a brand of football that is current and easy on the eye, Villas Boas will fit that mould in the not too distant future.

For know though, the 2012-2013 season will be one of growth and adapting for Tottenham, something that many fans from the blue and white half of London will be disappointed with after four successful seasons under Redknapp.

Stick with 'AVB' though, you'll soon see the rewards which made Villas Boas the youngest manager in history to win a European competition with Porto.



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Wrap Italia

By Luca Cetta

Derby delight for Sampdoria

Amid a weekend choc-full of red cards, Sampdoria eased their woes with a morale-boosting Derby victory. Juventus dropped points at home, but their nearest challengers could not take advantage as Giovanni Stroppa quit Pescara.

Only a few short years ago both Sampdoria and Genoa were enjoying European excursions. The city enjoyed a renaissance not seen since 1990-91 when Sampdoria was crowned Italian champions and Genoa finished fourth. Times have changed. Samp dropped to Serie B. Genoa have fought mediocrity. Given other results earlier in the weekend, the two went into the 105th edition of the ‘Derby della Lanterna’ occupying the last two positions on the table. **Ciro Ferrara’s Doria** had lost the past seven games, their fans growing restless. **Luigi Delneri** tasted defeat in all five of his matches in charge of Genoa, who had lost six in a row. The port-city lantern – which gives the Derby its name – was barely flickering. **Andrea Poli** opened proceedings a quarter of an hour in. Genoa failed to clear and he finished sharply on the turn for his debut Serie A



Mauro Emanuel Icardi celebrates a goal during Sampdoria’s 3-1 derby win over Genoa.

goal. Young Samp striker Mauro Icardi was making his first start and forced Sebastien Frey into a save but unluckily for the Grifoni, it ricochet into Cesare Bovo and over the line.

A fired-up Genoa hunted a goal after the interval but had to wait until the 73rd minute for a way back into the match. **Ciro Immobile** on target for the fourth time this term. Yet Icardi made the points safe, finishing smartly two minutes from time.

Ferrara eased the pressure on his shoulders and was delighted with Sampdoria’s first win since Round 3. “I saw the Sampdoria that started the season. We pressured our opponents for the entire match and that allowed us to bring home a great result.”

Lazio had **Federico Marchetti** to thank for their 0-0 draw at Juventus. The **Bianconeri** – without **Andrea Pirlo** – peppered the visitor’s goal but could not find a way past the unbeatable custodian. **Vladi-**

mir Petkovic claimed afterward Juventus were ‘too strong’ but his side offered a solid resistance to earn a point.

It allowed Napoli and Inter the chance to reduce the gap at the top. Napoli raced to a two-goal lead inside 30 minutes against Milan. **Gokhan Inler** and **Lorenzo Insigne** netted, only for the impressive **Stephan El Shaarawy** to drag Milan back into the contest. The youngster struck again to ensure it finished 2-2, a morale-boosting draw for the **Rossoneri**.

Inter looked on their way when **Rodrigo Palacio** opened the scoring early against Cagliari. But they did not count on a resilient visitor, who had taken the lead by the midway point of the second half thanks to a double from **Marco Sau**. In an enthralling half, **Davide Astori** put through his own net to draw the host’s level.

Inter felt they should have earned a penalty when **Andrea**

ITALY	Serie A										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5Games Most recent first		
1 Juventus	13	10	2	1	29	9	+20	32	DWLWW		
2 Internazionale	13	9	1	3	26	15	+11	28	DLWWW		
3 Fiorentina	13	8	3	2	23	10	+13	27	WWWWW		
4 Napoli	13	8	3	2	22	11	+11	27	DWDLW		
5 Lazio	13	7	2	4	19	17	+2	23	DWLDL		
6 Roma	13	6	2	5	30	23	+7	20	WLWLL		
7 Catania	13	5	4	4	17	17	+0	19	WDWDL		
8 Atalanta	13	6	2	5	14	19	-5	18	LWWWD		
9 Parma	13	4	5	4	16	18	-2	17	DDLWW		
10 Udinese	13	3	7	3	18	20	-2	16	DDDDW		
11 Cagliari	13	4	4	5	13	19	-6	16	DDLWW		
12 Milan	13	4	3	6	20	18	+2	15	DLWDW		
13 Torino	13	3	6	4	13	12	+1	14	LWDDL		
14 Sampdoria	13	4	2	7	16	19	-3	13	WLLLL		
15 Palermo	13	2	5	6	11	20	-9	11	LWLDD		
16 Bologna	13	3	2	8	15	18	-3	11	WLDLL		
17 Chievo	13	3	2	8	13	25	-12	11	LDLWL		
18 Pescara	13	3	2	8	9	24	-15	11	LLWLD		
19 Siena	13	4	4	5	13	14	-1	10	WDWLD		
20 Genoa	13	2	3	8	13	22	-9	9	LLLLL		

Ranocchia was tripped but the referee did not oblige. An incensed Inter called a media blackout after the match. Only President **Masimo Moratti** spoke to the press and angrily said referees had cost them in their past two matches.

Fiorentina punished ten-man Atalanta 4-1 to join Napoli in third. They were comfortably ahead at the break after **Alberto Aquilani’s** late brace and **Luca Cigraini’s** red card. **Luca Toni** added the icing on the very sweet cake for **Vincenzo Montella’s** impressive outfit. While Bologna scored three time against Palermo, the visitors had three men sent off in a highly-charged affair. Bologna also had their numbers reduced. Siena’s 1-0 win over nine-man Pescara – with the visitors missing a penalty – saw **Giovanni Stroppa** resign from his Pescara post. The coach had been under pressure and walked before the club had a chance to push.

On Monday, Roma scored twice

in the final 20 minutes to topple Torino. Catania earned a 2-1 win over Chievo, while Udinese twice surrendered the lead, sharing the points with Parma after a 2-2 draw.

Following crucial midweek Champions League clashes, Milan hosts Juventus on Sunday. The **Rossoneri** faced **Anderlecht** now and returning to domestic matters will look to move closer to the European zone with victory.

Meanwhile, Juve are in the midst of a difficult schedule but will be buoyed by their convincing win over Chelsea. **Mirko Vucinic** and **Pirlo** return to the squad, but **Giorgio Chiellini** is in doubt.

Inter, Napoli and Fiorentina can all apply pressure ahead of the San Siro showdown. The trio are on the road, with Inter squaring off against Parma, who are unbeaten in front of their own fans. Napoli faces Cagliari, so impressive against the **Nerazzurri** and a side defeated just once in the past six matches. Meanwhile, Fiorentina

Latest Results	This Week
Juventus 0 - 0 Lazio	Palermo v Catania
Napoli 2 - 2 Milan	Atalanta v Genoa
Bologna 3 - 0 Palermo	Chievo v Siena
Catania 2 - 1 Chievo	Pescara v Roma
Fiorentina 4 - 1 Atalanta	Sampdoria v Bologna
Inter 2 - 2 Cagliari	Torino v Fiorentina
Siena 1 - 0 Pescara	Milan v Juventus
Udinese 2 - 2 Parma	Cagliari v Napoli
Sampdoria 3 - 1 Genoa	Parma v Inter
Roma 2 - 0 Torino	Lazio v Udinese

One To Watch This Weekend...
The Sicilian Derby typically offers passion and fire in spades. It has also produced plenty of goals in recent seasons. Catania will remember a 4-0 thumping dished out in 2009, while two seasons prior Palermo triumphed 5-3.

3 Spanish Clubs Through, Still Waiting For Real Madrid



Viva Espana

By Pepe Lopez

Surprisingly Malaga FC, located on Spain’s tourist centric Costa Del Sol (“Sunshine Coast”), were the first Spanish team to qualify after 4 matches in Group C ahead 7 time European Champions **AC Milan**, **Belgium’s Anderlecht** and **Zenit St Petersburg** from Russia. Malaga FC were joined this week in the next stage of the UEFA Champions League, the Round of 16, by compatriot clubs **FC Barcelona** and **Valencia CF**.

Whilst no one was expecting any shocks in Group G, where FC Barcelona have now gained an unassailable 5 point lead of Portugal’s **Benfica** and Scotland’s **Celtic**, Barcelona were upset in the group stage by Celtic 2-1 at Celtic Park. With FC Barcelona under a new coach **Tito Vilanova**, the



Can Mourinho become the first manager to win the UCL with 3 clubs?

UEFA Champions League field is looking more open this season than it has ever been in the past decade.

Leading European based betting company **www.bwin.com** have FC Barcelona at \$3.50 favourites for the Champions League title, Real Madrid are a close \$4.15 second favourite, a price that will come down should Real Madrid seal qualification to the Round of 16 this week or in 2 weeks time. German clubs **Bayern Munich** and **Borussia Dortmund** come in at \$6.00 and \$9.50 respectively,

with outsiders England’s **Manchester United** at \$10.00 and Italian Champions **Juventus** a worthy \$17.00 bet.

The \$21.00 value bet of Ukrainian Champions **Shakhtar Donetsk**, also indicates a level of interest in the 2009 UEFA Cup winners, who have in past seasons been more close to a bet of complete outsiders at \$50.

The other value bet, despite ordinary domestic form, is the Swedish Magician **Zlatan Ibrahimovic** lead **Paris St Germain**.

The ever-cocky Real Madrid

SPAIN	La Liga										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5Games Most recent first		
1 Barcelona	12	11	1	0	39	15	+24	34	WWWWW		
2 Atlético Madrid	12	10	1	1	25	11	+14	31	WWLWW		
3 Real Madrid	12	8	2	2	32	9	+23	26	WWWWW		
4 Levante	12	6	2	4	15	16	-1	20	WLDWW		
5 Málaga	12	5	4	3	15	9	+6	19	DLLDW		
6 Real Betis	12	6	1	5	19	22	-3	19	LLWWD		
7 Valencia	12	5	3	4	16	14	+2	18	WDWLW		
8 Sevilla	12	5	3	4	18	14	+4	18	WLDLW		
9 Real Sociedad	12	5	1	6	16	16	+0	16	WWLDL		
10 Getafe	12	5	1	6	14	19	-5	16	WLLWL		
11 Rayo Vallecano	12	5	1	6	16	29	-13	16	LWWLL		
12 Real Valladolid	12	4	3	5	17	14	+3	15	LDWDL		
13 Real Zaragoza	12	5	0	7	15	21	-6	15	LWLWW		
14 Athletic Club	12	4	2	6	17	26	-9	14	LWWLL		
15 Mallorca	12	3	3	6	13	20	-7	12	DLLLL		
16 Celta de Vigo	12	3	2	7	14	18	-4	11	DLDDL		
17 Granada	12	3	2	7	11	19	-8	11	LWLLL		
18 Deportivo La C...	12	2	4	6	18	27	-9	10	LWLWL		
19 Osasuna	12	2	3	7	11	15	-4	9	DWLLD		
20 Espanyol	12	2	3	7	13	20	-7	9	LLWDD		

Manager **Jose Mourinho**, who does still need to qualify for the next stage of the UEFA Champions League, in order to achieve his ambition of becoming the first manager to win the UEFA Champions League with 3 different clubs, is showing no sign of nerves in the lead up to his team’s away match to Manchester City;

“Fortunately I have never been eliminated in the group phase and, therefore, the number of games per season has never been less than six. I twice did the maximum of

13 games per season, and in four others I had 12 matches. It was all very quick. Today, I remember the first game in Madrid with Porto, and it even seems like yesterday.”

Speaking more with newspaper **Economico**, Jose continued;

“There are many, but I mainly remember the Manchester United-Porto game that made us feel that we could be European champions. The Inter-Barcelona semi-final when Milan won 3-1. The second leg - the one I call the game of

heroes at Camp Nou - when we were reduced to 10 for more than an hour. It was special because we were able to lead Inter to the final in Madrid.”

“(However) The two semi-finals, Chelsea-Liverpool and recently Real Madrid-Bayern both hurt, especially the semi-final lost against Liverpool with a goal that actually did not cross the line. Since that day, I have been waiting for the goal-line technology.”



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26

Goal! Weekly - Friday 23rd November 2011

CROATIA 1.HNL															
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games					Most recent first	
1 Dinamo Zagreb	16	12	2	2	38	13	+25	38	W L W W W						
2 Hajduk Split	16	8	4	4	25	13	+12	28	D W W W L						
3 Rijeka	16	8	3	5	25	21	+4	27	W L W W L						
4 Slaven Koprivnica	16	8	3	5	25	23	+2	27	W L D D W						
5 Lokomotiva	16	7	5	4	23	19	+4	26	D W W L D						
6 Split	16	7	3	6	24	20	+4	24	L W D L W						
7 Osijek	16	5	7	4	19	15	+4	22	L D L L W						
8 Inter Zaprešić	16	4	7	5	20	20	+0	19	W D D W L						
9 Istra 1961	16	8	4	7	14	17	-3	19	L W L D W						
10 Cibalia	16	4	3	9	14	25	-11	15	W L D L L						
11 Zadar	16	2	4	10	14	34	-20	10	L W L L L						
12 Zagreb	16	2	3	11	8	29	-21	9	L L L W D						

GERMANY Bundesliga															
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games					Most recent first	
1 Bayern München	12	10	1	1	33	5	+28	31	D W W L W						
2 Schalke 04	12	7	2	3	22	14	+8	23	L W L W W						
3 Eintracht Fran...	12	7	2	3	25	18	+7	23	W L D L W						
4 Borussia Dortmund	12	6	4	2	26	13	+13	22	W W D W L						
5 Bayer Leverkusen	12	6	3	3	21	17	+4	21	W L W W D						
6 Hannover 96	12	5	2	5	25	20	+5	17	L W W L L						
7 Werder Bremen	12	5	2	5	20	18	+2	17	W L W D W						
8 Mainz 05	12	5	2	5	15	14	+1	17	L W L W D						
9 Hamburger SV	12	5	2	5	12	14	-2	17	W D L W L						
10 Freiburg	12	4	4	4	16	14	+2	16	W D D L W						
11 Borussia M'gla...	12	4	4	4	18	23	-5	16	L W D W L						
12 Stuttgart	12	4	4	4	14	20	-6	16	W L D W W						
13 Wolfsburg	12	4	2	6	12	19	-7	14	W W L W L						
14 Hoffenheim	12	3	3	6	18	26	-8	12	L D W L D						
15 Nürnberg	12	3	3	6	10	18	-8	12	L W L D L						
16 Fortuna Düsseldorf	12	2	5	5	11	18	-7	11	L D L L L						
17 Greuther Fürth	12	1	4	7	10	23	-13	7	L L D D D						
18 Augsburg	12	1	3	8	8	22	-14	6	L L L L D						

THE CHAMPIONSHIP															
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games					Most recent first	
1 Crystal Palace	17	11	3	3	35	22	+13	36	W W W W W						
2 Cardiff City	17	11	1	5	34	23	+11	34	W W L L W						
3 Middlesbrough	17	10	2	5	28	21	+7	32	L W D W W						
4 Hull City	17	10	1	6	27	23	+4	31	W L W W W						
5 Leicester City	17	9	3	5	29	16	+13	30	W D D L L						
6 Blackburn Rovers	17	7	7	3	26	20	+6	28	W D D L W						
7 Brighton & Hov...	17	7	6	4	24	15	+9	27	W W D D D						
8 Huddersfield Town	17	8	3	6	23	23	+0	27	L W D W L						
9 Millwall	17	7	5	5	30	26	+4	26	W W D W W						
10 Nottingham Forest	17	6	8	3	24	20	+4	26	W D D L W						
11 Watford	17	8	2	7	27	24	+3	26	W W D W L						
12 Blackpool	17	6	5	6	28	25	+3	23	D W L D L						
13 Derby County	17	6	5	6	25	24	+1	23	L W W W L						
14 Charlton Athletic	17	6	5	6	23	23	+0	23	W W W L D						
15 Burnley	17	7	2	8	30	32	-2	23	L L W W L						
16 Wolverhampton ...	17	6	4	7	23	23	+0	22	L D L L D						
17 Bolton Wanderers	17	5	6	6	24	26	-2	21	D D D W L						
18 Leeds United	17	5	5	7	23	29	-6	20	L L L D L						
19 Birmingham City	17	5	5	7	20	26	-6	20	L W L W L						
20 Barnsley	17	4	4	9	16	25	-9	16	D L L L L						
21 Sheffield Wedn...	17	4	3	10	21	30	-9	15	L L L W W						
22 Ipswich Town	17	3	4	10	13	38	-25	13	L W L W L						
23 Bristol City	17	3	3	11	25	34	-9	12	D L L L L						
24 Peterborough U...	17	4	0	13	19	29	-10	12	L L L L W						

Greece Super League															
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games					Most recent first	
1 Olympiakos Piraeus	11	10	1	0	28	5	+23	31	W W W D W						
2 PAOK	11	7	2	2	16	7	+9	23	L W W D W						
3 Panionios	11	7	0	4	14	10	+4	21	W L L W L						
4 Asteras Tripolis	11	6	2	3	15	5	+10	20	W L W D W						
5 Atromitos	11	4	5	2	9	8	+1	17	L W W D D						
6 Panathinaikos	11	4	6	1	11	7	+4	16	W D W D D						
7 PAS Giannina	11	4	3	4	10	9	+1	15	W W L D W						
8 OFI	11	3	4	4	11	13	-2	13	L W L D W						
9 Platania	11	3	3	5	10	14	-4	12	L L D L L						
10 Levadiakos	11	3	3	5	7	11	-4	12	W W L D D						
11 Kerkyra	11	2	5	4	6	12	-6	11	L D D D W						
12 Panthrakikos	11	3	1	7	8	15	-7	10	D W L L L						
13 Xanthi	11	2	4	5	6	14	-8	10	D L W D L						
14 Aris	11	2	4	5	10	16	-6	10	L W W D D						
15 Veria	11	2	3	6	6	16	-10	9	L L L D L						
16 AEK Athens	11	2	2	7	8	13	-5	8	W L L W L						

TURKEY Süper Lig



Last5games
Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Galatasaray	12	6	4	2	27	17	+10	22	L D W W D
2 Antalyaspor	12	7	1	4	23	18	+5	22	L D W W W
3 Kasimpasa	12	6	2	4	19	12	+7	20	D W D L D
4 Fenerbahçe	12	5	5	2	16	11	+5	20	D W W L D
5 Beşiktaş	12	5	4	3	27	19	+8	19	W D W W D
6 Trabzonspor	12	5	4	3	13	9	+4	19	W W L L D
7 Gençlerbirliği	12	4	6	2	21	15	+6	18	D W L D D
8 Eskişehirspor	12	5	3	4	22	15	+7	18	D L W D W
9 Bursaspor	12	4	5	3	20	15	+5	17	W D L W D
10 Orduspor	12	4	4	3	16	14	+2	17	L L W L D
11 Sivasspor	12	4	4	4	13	15	-2	16	D W L L L
12 Karabükspor	12	4	3	5	16	22	-6	15	W W L L D
13 Kayserispor	12	4	2	6	16	20	-4	14	D W W L L
14 İstanbul BB	12	3	3	6	11	15	-4	12	D L L L W
15 Gaziantepspor	12	3	3	6	11	19	-8	12	D L L W D
16 Akhisar Beledi...	12	2	4	6	7	19	-12	10	L L L W D
17 Mersin İdmanyurdu	12	1	6	5	13	21	-8	9	L D L W D
18 Elazığspor	12	1	6	5	8	23	-15	9	D L W D D



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